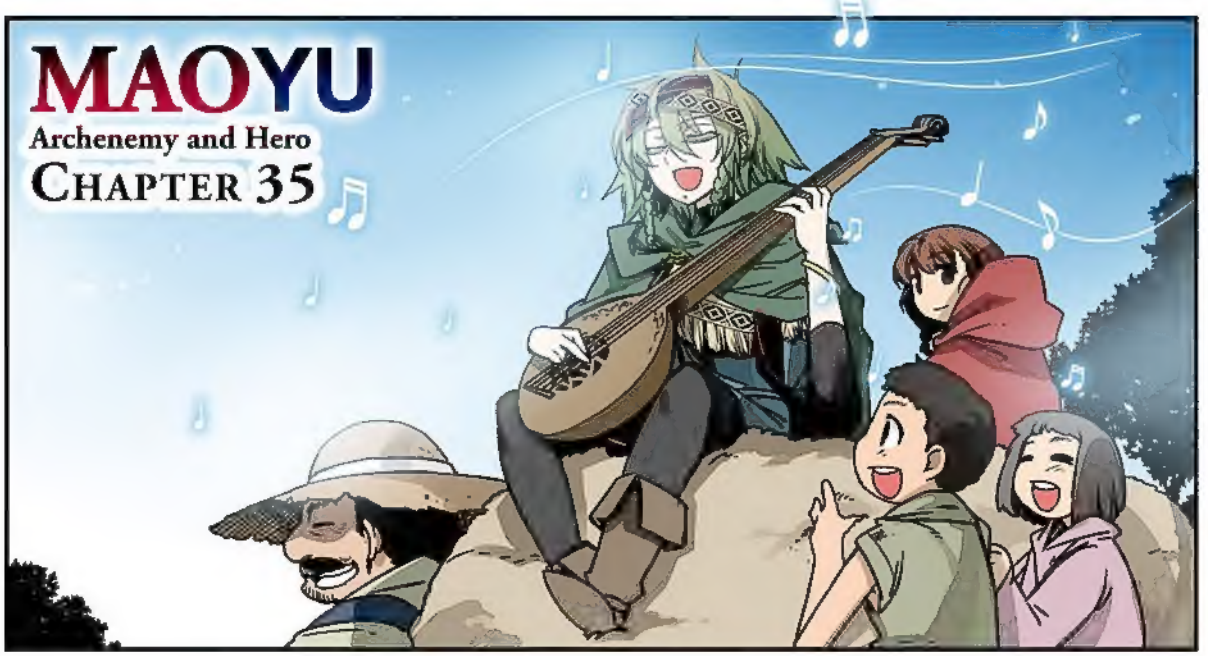
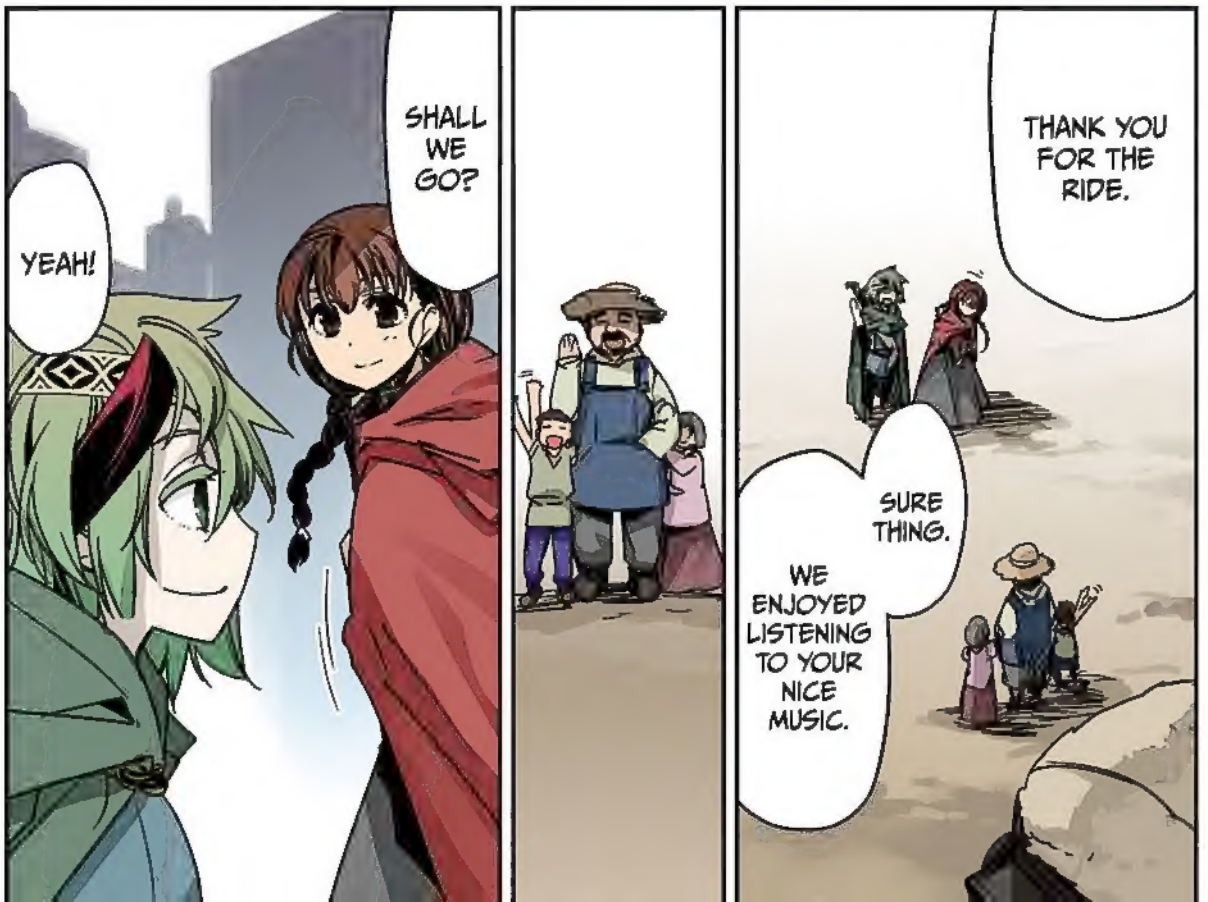
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
VOLUME 11
Art by
AKIRA ISHIDA
Original Work by
MAMARE TOUNO
Character Design by KEINOJOU MIZUTAMA and toi8


MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 35


SHALL WE GO?
YEAH!
THANK YOU FOR THE RIDE.
SURE THING.
WE ENJOYED LISTENING TO YOUR NICE MUSIC.

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Archenemy and Hero CHAPTER 35

An Old Story

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CHAPTER 35 Archenemy and Hero 001

An Old Story

CHAPTER 36 Archenemy and Hero 043

I Want to See the Other Side of the Hill Too

CHAPTER 37 Archenemy and Hero 103

Why Are Those Here?

MAOYU

Archenemy and Hero

"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"

Volume 11

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COLUMN PAGE
Daisuke Takenouchi (Recca-sha)
Masataka Nomura

Lectures on Archenemy and Hero
Outline of volume.10

Meanwhile, the Demon Queen takes a break from reforming the Human World to return to the Spirit World with the Hero disguised as the Black Knight and the Chief Maid. She holds a Kurultai, a major conference of demons, and asks the chiefs of eight major demon clans to agree to cease hostilities against the humans. Though the Blue Demon King's motion to dethrone the Demon Queen causes a disturbance, Archduke Fire Dragon and the Commander of the Eastern Fortress' quick wits restore order to the meeting. However, the Demon Queen is shot by an assassin. Though she is gravely injured, the Demon Queen uses the opportunity to expose her opposition by announcing her own death. The Blue Demon Prince with a demon monarch seal in each eye kills his father and ascends to the throne. As the Seal King of Blue Demons, he declares his candidacy for the demon monarch's throne. However, the Seal King's plot is exposed. Though the Seal King mobilizes his hidden troops and rebels against the Demon Queen, they are driven back by the Hero and clan chiefs and head back to their home territory.

After the battle, the Hero removes his helmet and reveals his identity to the chiefs and describes the thoughts and intentions of the Demon Queen. Learning the Demon Queen's thoughts brings the clan chiefs together, and the Demon Queen returns to the surface after entrusting the conference with her authority.

As the Demon Queen recuperates in her mansion, she spends time relaxing with the Hero, Female Knight, and Chief Maid. During this period, the Older Maid Sister who has been thinking for some time quits her job at the mansion and leaves on a journey to discover her own destiny. The Demon Queen and her allies have only a moment's rest. In the subterranean world, the Seal King invades the Human World with his clan's army in tow and conquers the Midnight Sun Kingdom in a single night. Threatening clouds gather on the horizon...

ROAR
WE HAVE NO HOME LEFT IN THE SPIRIT WORLD THAT SERVES AN IMPERTINENT DEMON QUEEN!
HOW-EVER...
...WE HAVE DESTROYED A KINGDOM OF THE HATED HUMANS AND MADE IT OUR OWN!

The Demon Queen and Hero begin working together to change the world. Three years have passed since they began working out of Overwinter Village in the Human World. The numerous technologies and information bestowed on the Winter, Iron, and Ice Kingdoms by the Demon Queen working as the Crimson Scholar have dramatically improved the lives of the people living in the south. Their increase in national power leads them to form the Three Kingdom Trade Alliance.

YES, SIR.
I CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGA-TION AT THE REQUEST OF GATEWAY CITY'S SELF GOVERN-ING ASSEMBLY.
REBUILDING THE MAIN ROADS WILL YIELD AMPLE BENEFITS.

Prepared for a conflict with the Holy Kingdom and Central Church of Holy Light, the three kingdoms name the Female Knight's Lakeside Convent their new national religion and plan their economic and spiritual independence.

These changes push the Merchant's Alliance, the Human World's largest economic organization, into motion. The Young Merchant, leader of the Alliance, lays plans to establish a two major currency system using wheat. After an encounter with Princess Fire Dragon, he also negotiates with Archduke Fire Dragon to extend his trade routes into the Spirit World, and the two reach a trade agreement regarding salt. Once it becomes clear the Spirit and Human Worlds are contiguous, the Young Merchant uses Princess Fire Dragon to suggest a plan to construct major roads through the subterranean world, and large-scale engineering projects begin.

SUMMARY OF MAOYU VOLUME 10

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One of the Hero's former traveling companions. Though she is aware of the Demon Queen's true identity, she remains a sympathetic supporter. Currently she commands the armies of the Southern Kingdoms against the Blue Demon army.

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Using the knowledge she gained from the Outer Library, the queen of demons seeks to reform the world. She nearly made a complete recovery from the wound she suffered at the hands of an assassin at the Kurultai and acts to handle the Blue Demon Clan's invasion of the surface.

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Has been caring for the Demon Queen since she was a child. She desires happiness for the Demon Queen and works to make the Demon Queen's dream come true.

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A former serf working in the Demon Queen's mansion as a maid. She leaves on a journey to search for "what she must do," and is currently pursuing the legend of the holy spirits.

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A maid working with her sister in the Demon Queen's mansion. Her gluttony opens her eyes to the world of cooking. Every day she invents new dishes and expands her repertoire.

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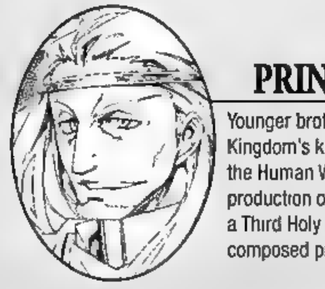
Captain of a mercenary company. He once fought against the Winter Kingdom's army under the employ of a Central Continent noble. Later he hid in the outskirts of the Ice Kingdom as a brigand.



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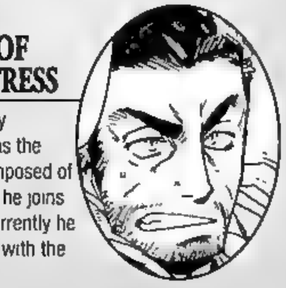
Younger brother of the Holy Kingdom's king and powerful hero of the Human World. He orders the mass production of muskets and dispatches a Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force composed primarily of militiamen.



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Former captain of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force. Serving as the chief of the Gateway Clan composed of the residents of Gateway City, he joins the conference of demons. Currently he handles the Blue Demon Clan with the Demon Queen.

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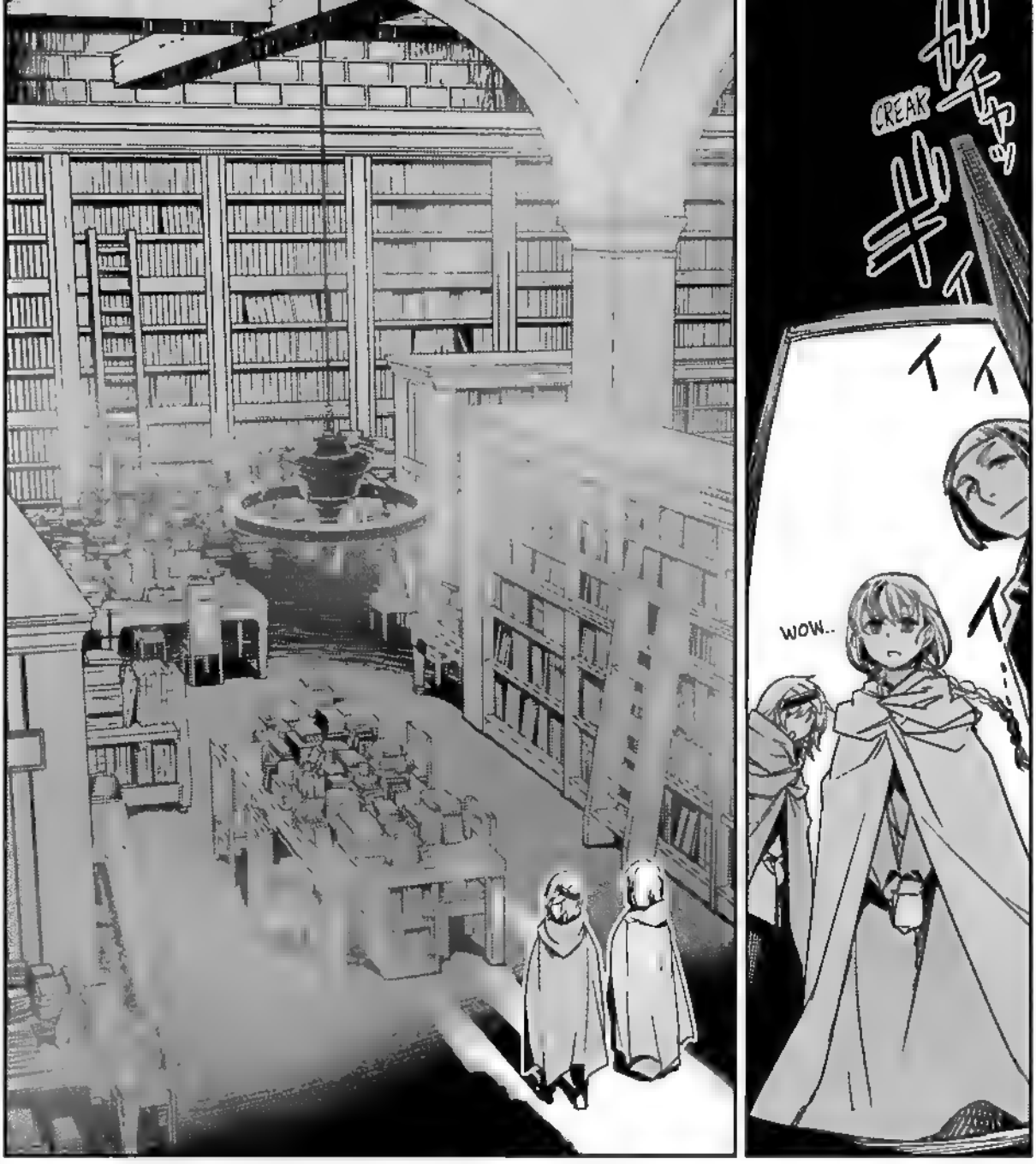
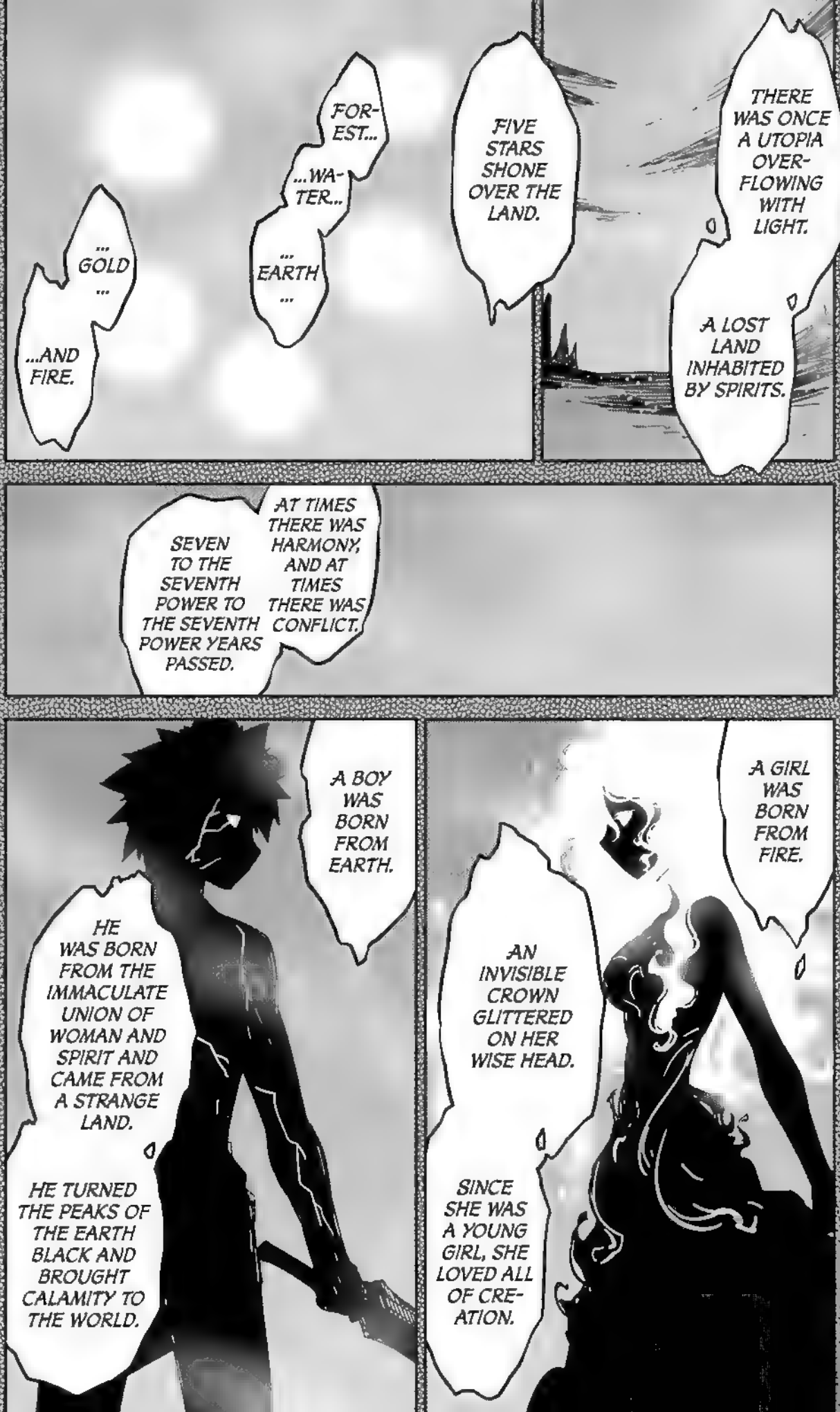

CREAK
WOW..

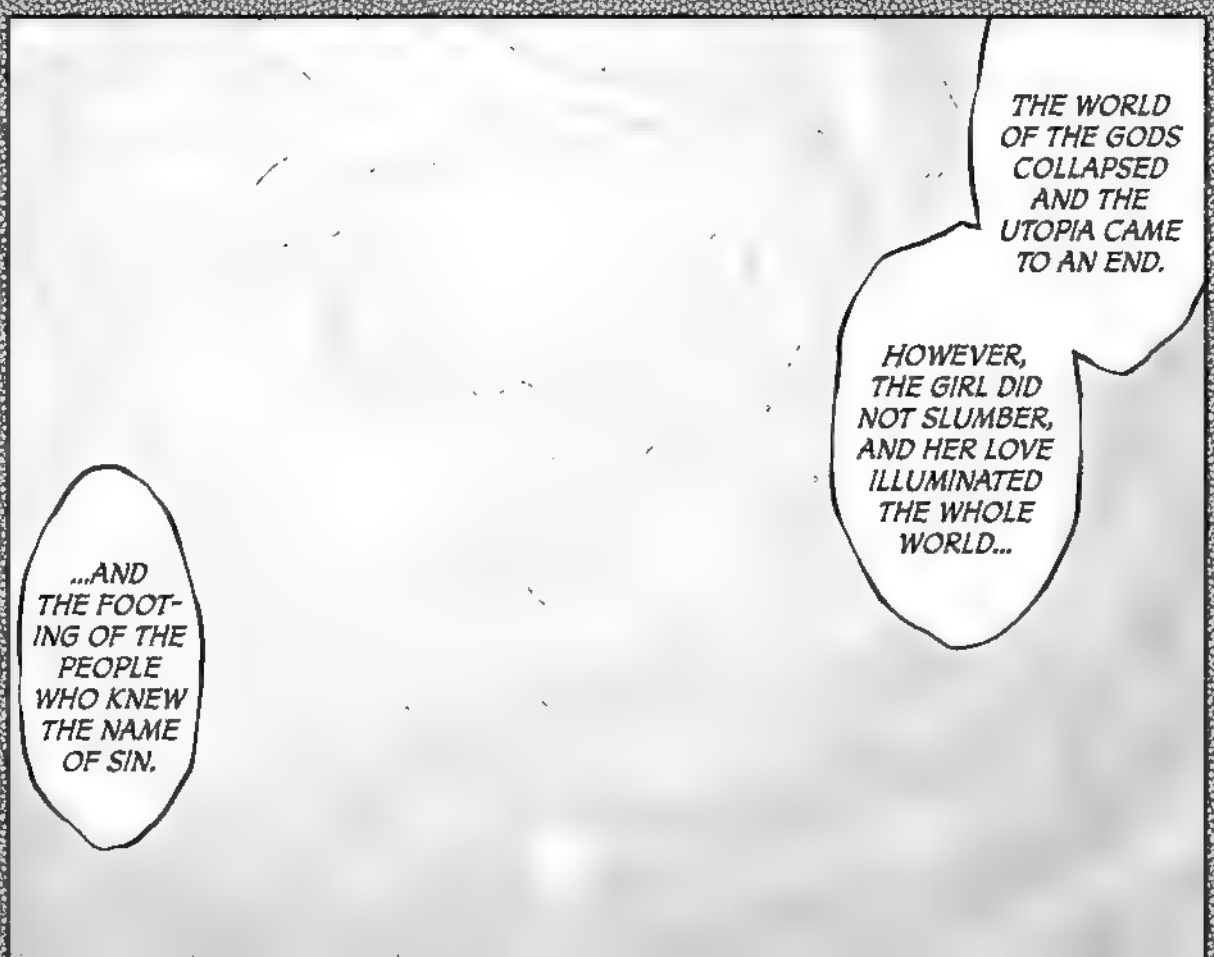
THANK YOU.
I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR ABOUT THE PRIORESS.
I'LL MAKE YOU SOME WARM TEA.
ONCE YOU'RE FINISHED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

ISN'T THE PRIORESS A PRETTY IMPORTANT PERSON?
YOU MUST BE PRETTY INCREDIBLE TO HAVE A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM HER.
SHE USED TO LOOK AFTER ME.
IT'S BECAUSE THE FEMALE KNIGHT IS SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE FIGURE.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO IS INCRED-IBLE.
I'M LOOKING FOR INFORMA-TION ON THE HOLY RELIC...
...BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
WE'LL BE MORE EFFICIENT IF WE TELL EACH OTHER
COUGH
Eh
WOOM
I DON'T KNOW.

THAT'S NOT QUITE IT.
RE-ALLY?
YOU LIKE THAT KIND OF THING?
...BUT I WANT TO SEE A VERY, VERY OLD STORY.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO PUT INTO WORDS...
HUH.
YOU'RE PRETTY METHODI-CAL.
I'M JUST CLUMSY.
IF I'M GOING TO START ANEW...
...I THOUGHT I SHOULD FIND THE "SOURCE" WHERE EVERY-THING BEGAN.
IT SEEMS TO BE A VERY OLD STORY.
SPIRITS ...
...OF THE LAND?
WHAT ABOUT THIS?
IT'S SUPER-OLD.
THIS IS...


THERE WAS ONCE A UTOPIA OVER-FLOWING WITH LIGHT.
A LOST LAND INHABITED BY SPIRITS.
FIVE STARS SHONE OVER THE LAND.
FOR-EST...
...WA-TER...
... EARTH ...
... GOLD ...
...AND FIRE.
AT TIMES THERE WAS HARMONY, AND AT TIMES THERE WAS CONFLICT.
SEVEN TO THE SEVENTH POWER TO THE SEVENTH POWER YEARS PASSED.
A GIRL WAS BORN FROM FIRE.
AN INVISIBLE CROWN GLITTERED ON HER WISE HEAD.
SINCE SHE WAS A YOUNG GIRL, SHE LOVED ALL OF CRE-ATION.
A BOY WAS BORN FROM EARTH.
HE WAS BORN FROM THE IMMACULATE UNION OF WOMAN AND SPIRIT AND CAME FROM A STRANGE LAND.
HE TURNED THE PEAKS OF THE EARTH BLACK AND BROUGHT CALAMITY TO THE WORLD.

UNDER THE NAME OF A SIN THAT UNLEASHED HOPE...
...AND THE PROTECTION OF GREAT WINGS...
EVENTUALLY THEIR TOUCHING FINGERTIPS INTERTWINED...
...AND THE PROMISE OF THEIR YOUTH BECAME AN OATH OF DESIRE.
...THE TWO SOULS WERE JOINED.


THE WORLD OF THE GODS COLLAPSED AND THE UTOPIA CAME TO AN END.
HOWEVER, THE GIRL DID NOT SLUMBER, AND HER LOVE ILLUMINATED THE WHOLE WORLD...
...AND THE FOOTING OF THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW THE NAME OF SIN.

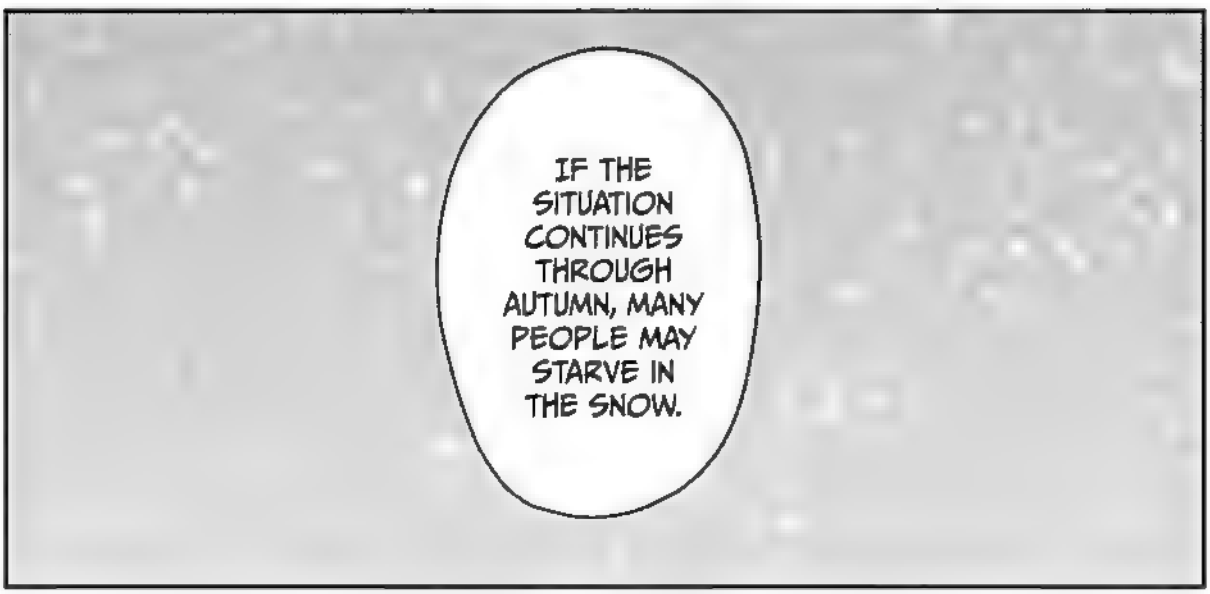
IS IT A STORY OF THE SPIRITS?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ONE BEFORE.
ARE THESE ...
...THE FIVE MAJOR FAMILIES?
WHAT?
IT'S A STORY ABOUT THE FIVE MAJOR FAMILIES OF SPIRITS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THIS OLD, THOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IN THE SPIRIT -- I MEAN...
WHERE I'M FROM...
...IT'S SAID EVERY CREATURE LIVING IN THIS WORLD IS DESCENDED...
...FROM THE FIRST FIVE MAJOR FAMILIES OF SPIRITS.

FOR EXAMPLE, MY FAMILY IS DESCENDED FROM THE FOREST SPIRIT FAMILY.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S TRUE...
...BUT THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY.
NOT MANY PEOPLE ACTUALLY BELIEVE IT.
THE CHURCH OF HOLY LIGHTS...
WHAT?
....
BUT...
...WHAT IS THIS DOING HERE?
THE CHURCH OF HOLY LIGHTS.
AT ITS HEAD-QUARTERS UNDER THE PROTEC-TION OF THE ARCH-BISHOP...
...THERE IS A LIBRARY IN THE BASEMENT OF THE CHAPEL.
I HAVE HEARD ITS COLLECTION FEATURES MORE BOOKS AND OLD DOCUMENTS THAN THIS PLACE.

WE SHOULD GO THERE.
WHAT ?
DO YOU HAVE A LETTER OF INTRO-DUCTION FOR THAT PLACE TOO?
NO.
CAN WE GET IN?
NORMALLY, NO.
BUT I KNOW THE CHAPEL IS LOCATED IN THE HOLY CAPITAL NEAR THE CENTER OF THE HOLY KINGDOM.
IF WE'RE LOOKING FOR RUMORS OR TRYING TO FIND SOME-THING, IT'S NOT A PLACE WE CAN AVOID.
I WILL GO.
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

I'LL PROBABLY FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOLY RELIC THERE.
I'M STARTING TO GET INTER-ESTED TOO.
I'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR.
I'LL GO.
YES.
SO DO I.
THEY SAY TRAVEL-ING IS ABOUT GOOD COM-PANY.
I LOOK FORWARD TO CON-TINUING OUR JOURNEY TOGETH-ER.

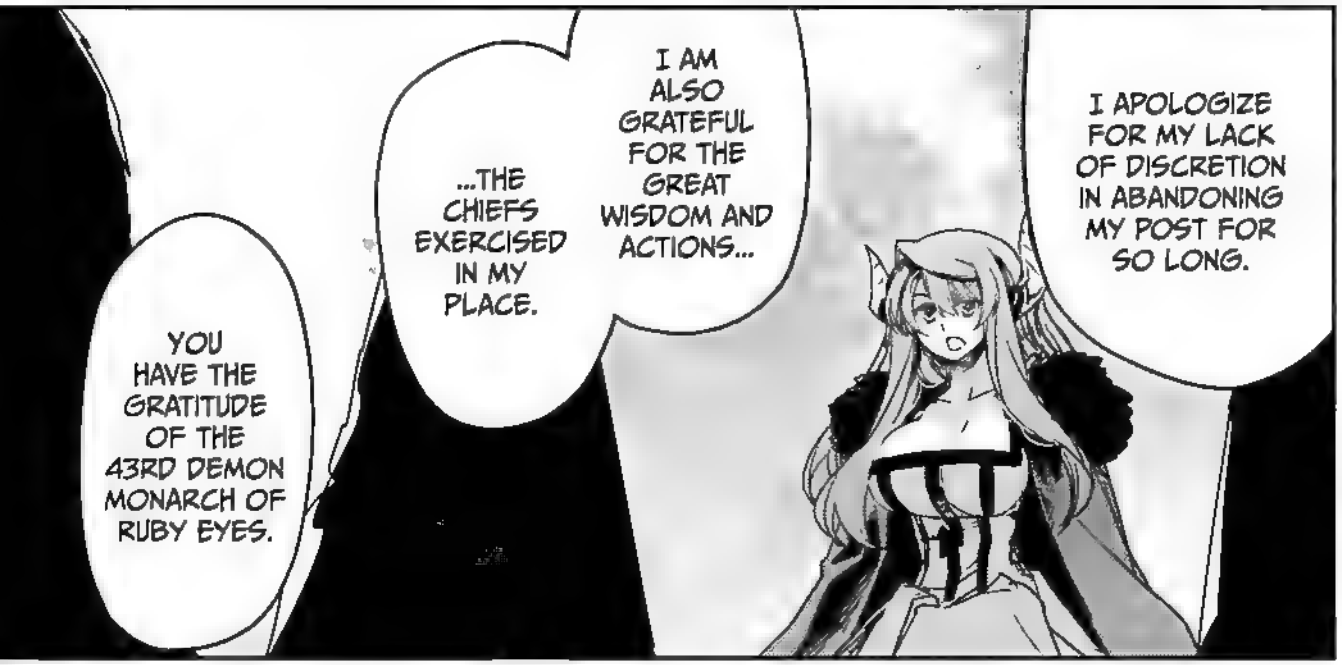
THIS AREA IS QUITE POOR.
THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HARVEST WHEAT IN THE SPRING.
THIS YEAR'S CROP SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT POOR.
FOR VARIOUS REASONS, THE PRICE OF GOODS REFUSES TO FALL.


IF THE SITUATION CONTINUES THROUGH AUTUMN, MANY PEOPLE MAY STARVE IN THE SNOW.

I WONDER WHY IT'S SO TERRIBLE.
YES.
THAT'S TERRIBLE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
...
UGH
...

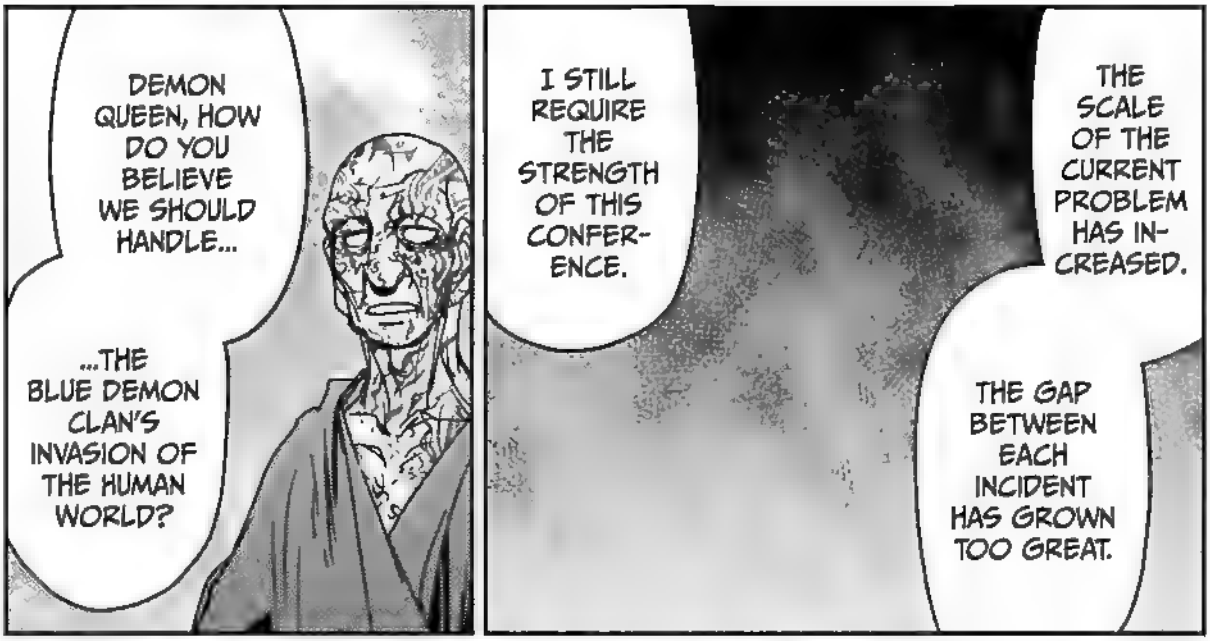
I'M SORRY ...
.....
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS SAVED...
IS SHE MOAN-ING?
STEP

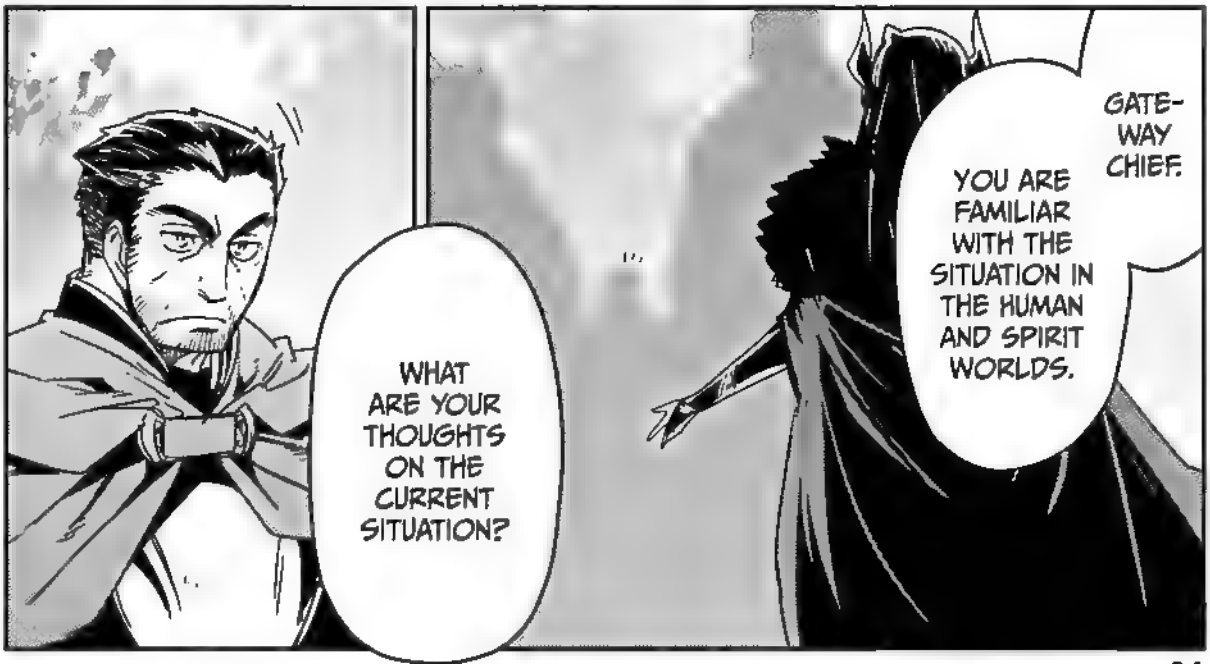
おお
OOH
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I CAUSED.


I APOLOGIZE FOR MY LACK OF DISCRETION IN ABANDONING MY POST FOR SO LONG.
I AM ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE GREAT WISDOM AND ACTIONS...
...THE CHIEFS EXERCISED IN MY PLACE.
YOU HAVE THE GRATITUDE OF THE 43RD DEMON MONARCH OF RUBY EYES.

ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON, YOU UNIFIED THE OPINIONS OF THE CLANS.
IT WAS NOTHING SHORT OF IMPRES-SIVE.
HEARING YOU SAY THAT...
...MAKES THE CONCERN AND FATIGUE IN MY HEART MELT AWAY.

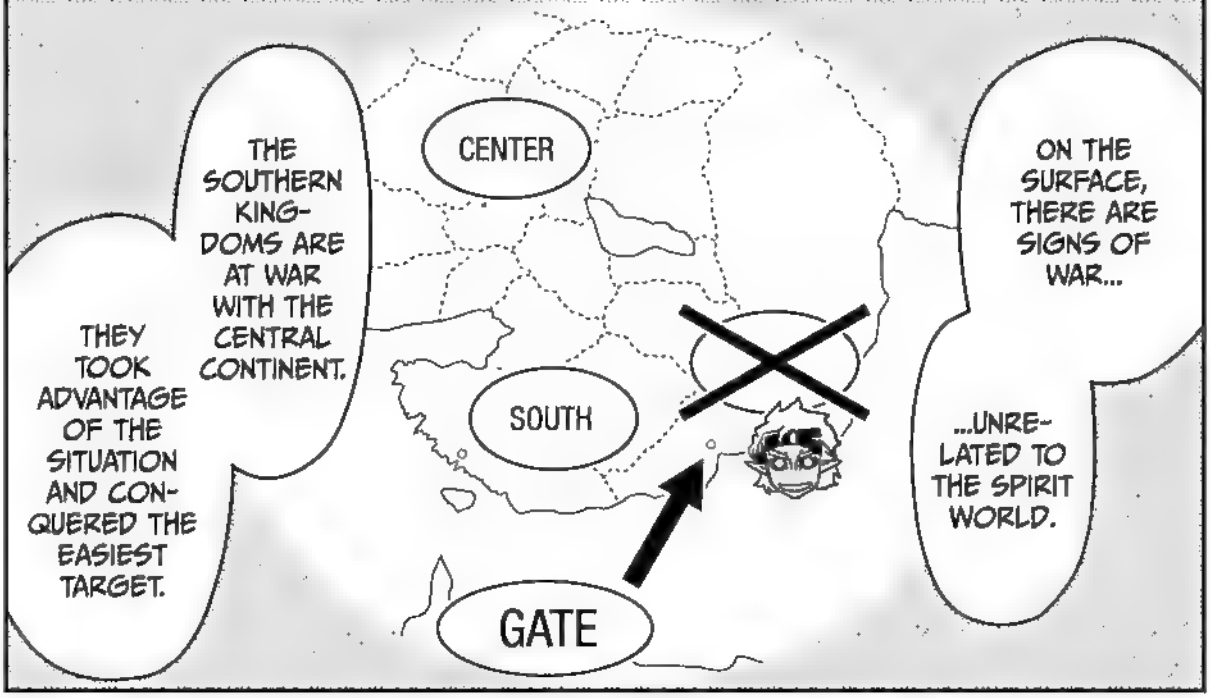
DEMON QUEEN.
THE CONFERENCE HAS FULFILLED ITS DUTY AND RETURNS YOUR AUTHORITY TO YOU.
DO YOU ACCEPT?
NO. WE SHALL PUT THAT ON HOLD.

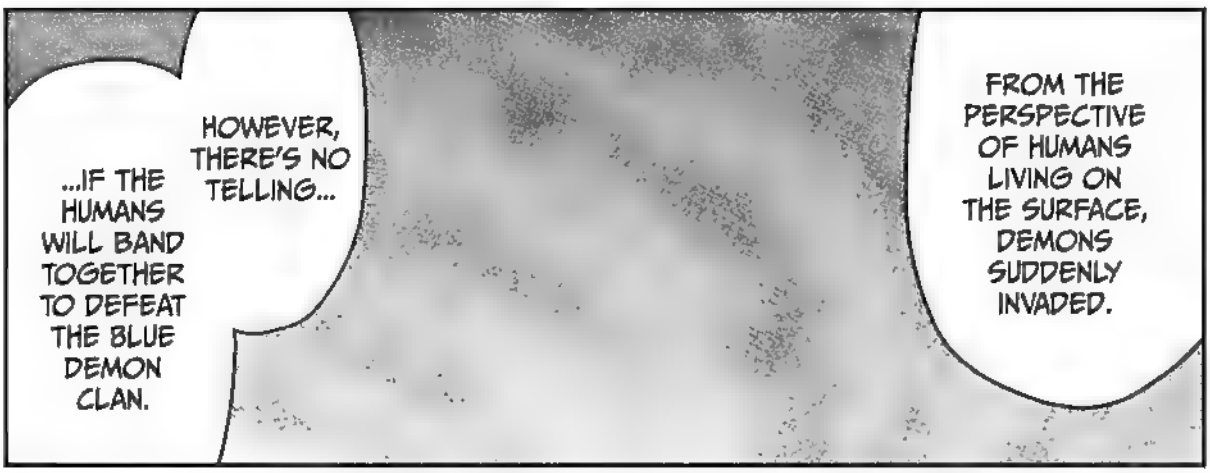

THE SCALE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM HAS INCREASED.
I STILL REQUIRE THE STRENGTH OF THIS CONFERENCE.
THE GAP BETWEEN EACH INCIDENT HAS GROWN TOO GREAT.
DEMON QUEEN, HOW DO YOU BELIEVE WE SHOULD HANDLE...
...THE BLUE DEMON CLAN'S INVASION OF THE HUMAN WORLD?


GATEWAY CHIEF.
YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION IN THE HUMAN AND SPIRIT WORLDS.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION?

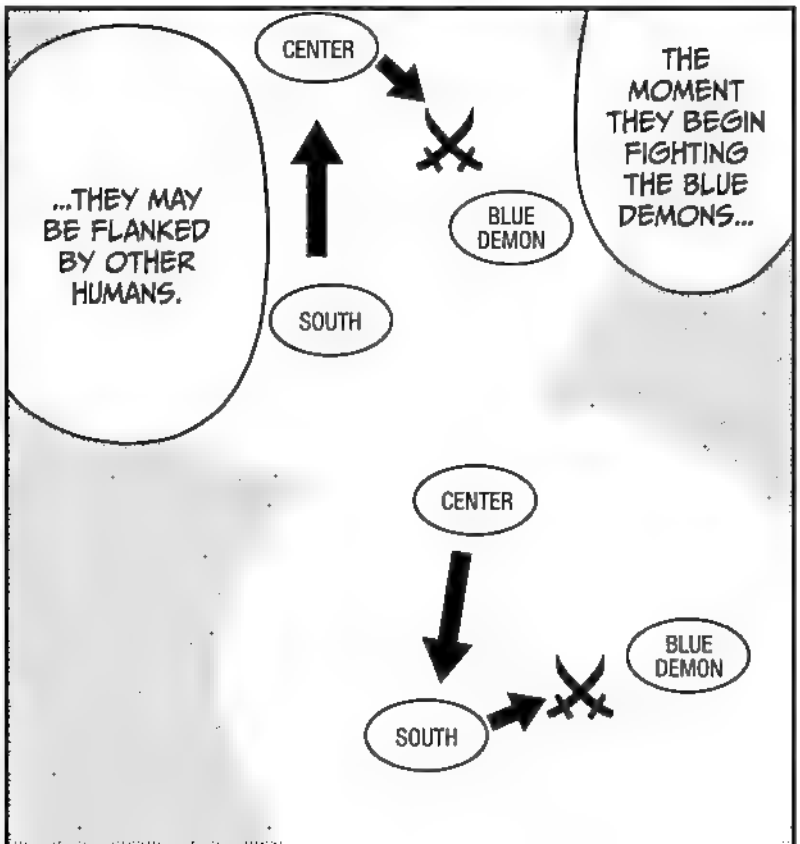
THEY CONQUERED THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM, ONE OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS, IN A SINGLE DAY.
ALL MEMBERS OF THE BLUE DEMON CLAN'S TOP MILITARY LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING THE SEAL KING HIMSELF...
...HAVE INVADED THE SURFACE.
OGRE CALL
GATEWAY
BLUE DEMON
HUMANOID
MECHANI-CAL
THEY ACTED BEFORE WE REACHED A STALEMATE.
I WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO HANDLE ALL THE ARMIES OF THE OTHER CLANS AT ONCE.

WE CAN ASSUME...
...THEY HAVE BEEN ABAN-DONED.
THEY LEFT BEHIND ROUGHLY 160,000 BLUE DEMONS IN THEIR TERRITORY.


THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS ARE AT WAR WITH THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION AND CONQUERED THE EASIEST TARGET.
CENTER
SOUTH
GATE
ON THE SURFACE, THERE ARE SIGNS OF WAR...
...UNRELATED TO THE SPIRIT WORLD.

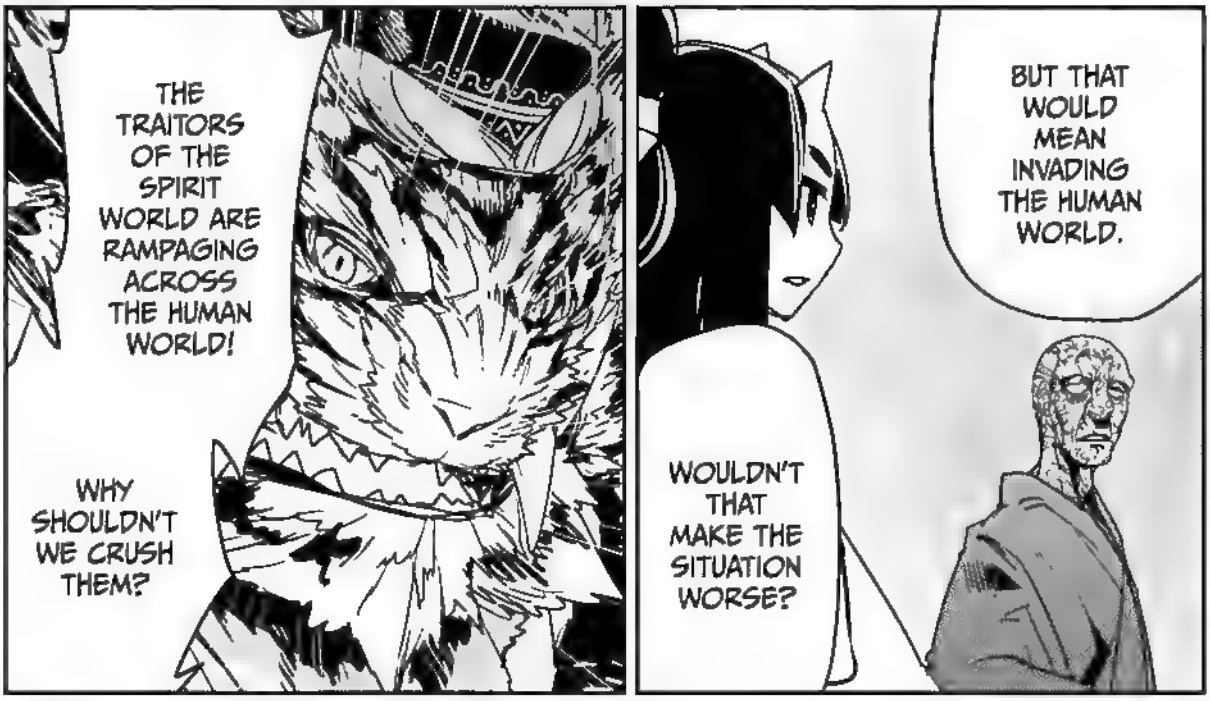

...IF THE HUMANS WILL BAND TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THE BLUE DEMON CLAN.
HOWEVER, THERE'S NO TELLING...
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HUMANS LIVING ON THE SURFACE, DEMONS SUDDENLY INVADED.

HMPH..
HMM.
I SEE.


...THEY MAY BE FLANKED BY OTHER HUMANS.
CENTER
SOUTH
BLUE DEMON
THE MOMENT THEY BEGIN FIGHTING THE BLUE DEMONS...
CENTER
SOUTH
BLUE DEMON

THE KURULTAI ENDED BEFORE WE DECIDED WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE WAR AGAINST HUMANS.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO DECIDE NOW.
BUT...
WE COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION TO INVADE THE HUMAN WORLD.
HOW-EVER...
...I DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO TO WAR AGAINST THE HUMANS NOW.
MY CLAN LIVES TO FIGHT.
WE DO NOT HESITATE TO FIGHT HUMANS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DUKE SILVER TIGER?

THE FANGED DEMONS MUST FIGHT THE BLUE DEMONS FIRST!
THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVE.
THE BLUE DEMON CLAN WOULD BE TRICKING US INTO FIGHTING HUMANS!
BUT I DO NOT LIKE THE CURRENT SITUATION!


THE TRAITORS OF THE SPIRIT WORLD ARE RAMPAGING ACROSS THE HUMAN WORLD!
WHY SHOULDN'T WE CRUSH THEM?
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN INVADING THE HUMAN WORLD.
WOULDN'T THAT MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE?

WE SHOULD FOLLOW DUKE SILVER TIGER'S SUGGES-TION.
THE SITUATION IS GROWING WORSE BY THE MOMENT.
IF WE STAND BY AND WATCH, THE SITUATION MAY TURN OUT EVEN WORSE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DEMON QUEEN?

おおお
OOH
BAM
IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS FROM THE CHIEFS...
...THE DEMON ARMY WILL EMBARK ON ITS FIRST EXPEDITION!
DUKE SILVER TIGER!
YES, MA'AM!
ガウ
GROWL
OUR DESTINATION IS FAR!
WE CANNOT BRING A LARGE ARMY!
COMMANDER!
THE BATTLE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HUMAN WORLD!
LEND ME YOUR WIT AS MY GENERAL OF THE LEFT!
GOT IT.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
LEAD YOUR 8,000 BEST TROOPS AS MY GENERAL OF THE RIGHT!
YES, MA'AM!
SERVE MY WILL AND COMMAND YOUR MEN!
CLANG

THE MECHANICAL CLAN KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PERSECUTED.
ENTER THE FORMER BLUE DEMON TERRITORY. SHUT DOWN THEIR GOLD AND MINERAL MINES AND FREEZE THEM.
TAKE CONTROL OVER THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE AND REASSURE THEM.
STEEL GEN-ERAL.
CREAK
VERY WELL. I WILL DO THIS.
BEEP
PLEASE.
ONLY THE CLAN WHOSE CHIEF KNOWS THEIR SADNESS CAN SAVE THE BLUE DEMON CLAN ABANDONED BY ITS CHIEF AND ARMY.
POUR ALL YOUR EFFORT INTO BUILD-ING THE ROADS.
I WISH TO RESPECT THE DECISIONS OF THE CHIEFS.
WHETHER THE WORLD REMAINS AT PEACE OR GOES TO WAR, BUILDING ROADS AND CLEARING LAND WILL HELP US.
YES, MA'AM !
PAT-TERNED CHIEF.
OGRE CALL PRIEST-ESS.
GIANT COUNT.

ARCH-DUKE FIRE DRAG-ON.
I KNOW.
WE WILL HANDLE THE WORLD WHILE YOU ARE GONE.
UMM ...
EX-CUSE ME.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
WHAT ABOUT MY CLAN?

FAIRY QUEEN.
YES!
YOU ARE CRITICAL TO THE EX-PEDITION.
WHAT ?

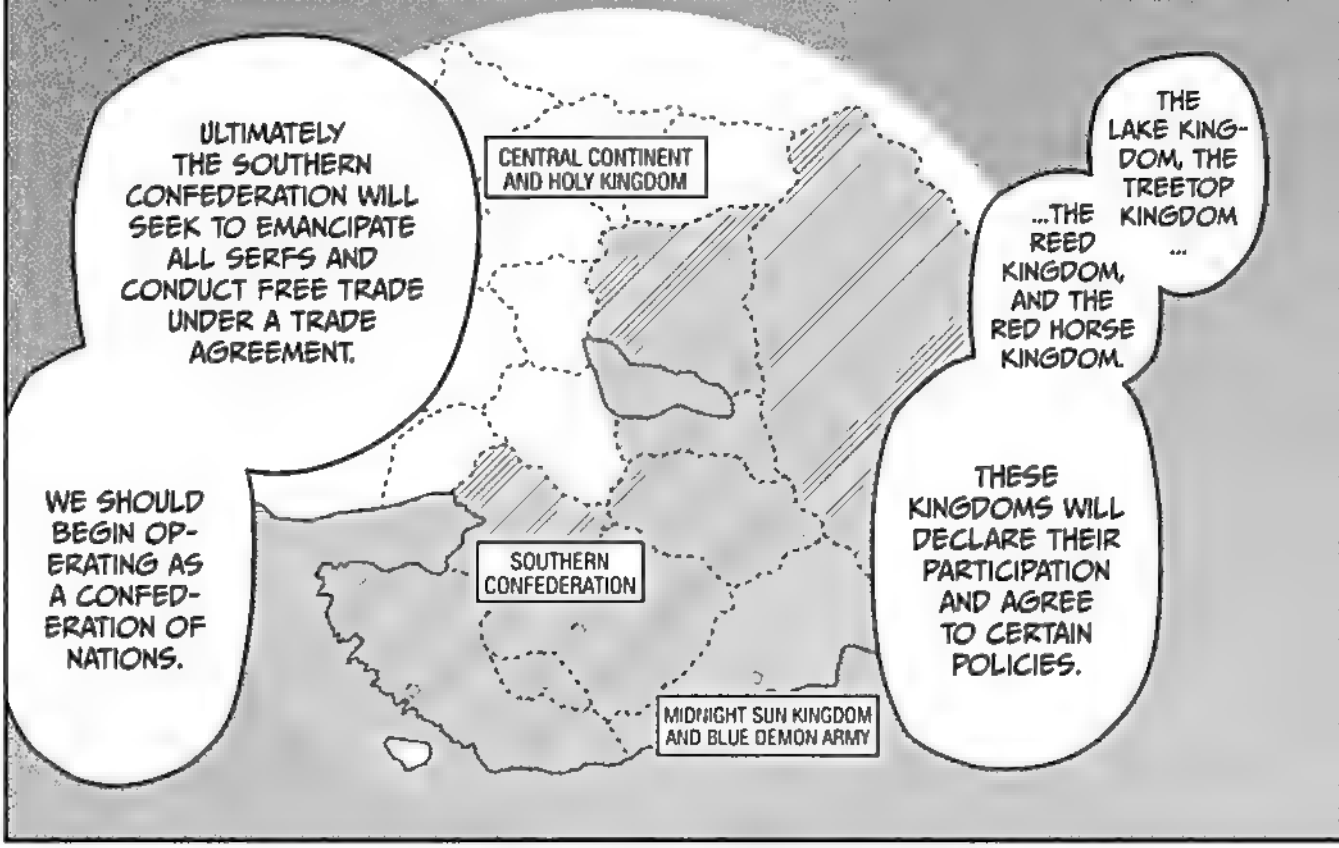
BOOM
BOOM
RUMBLE
WHINNY
SNORT
RUMBLE

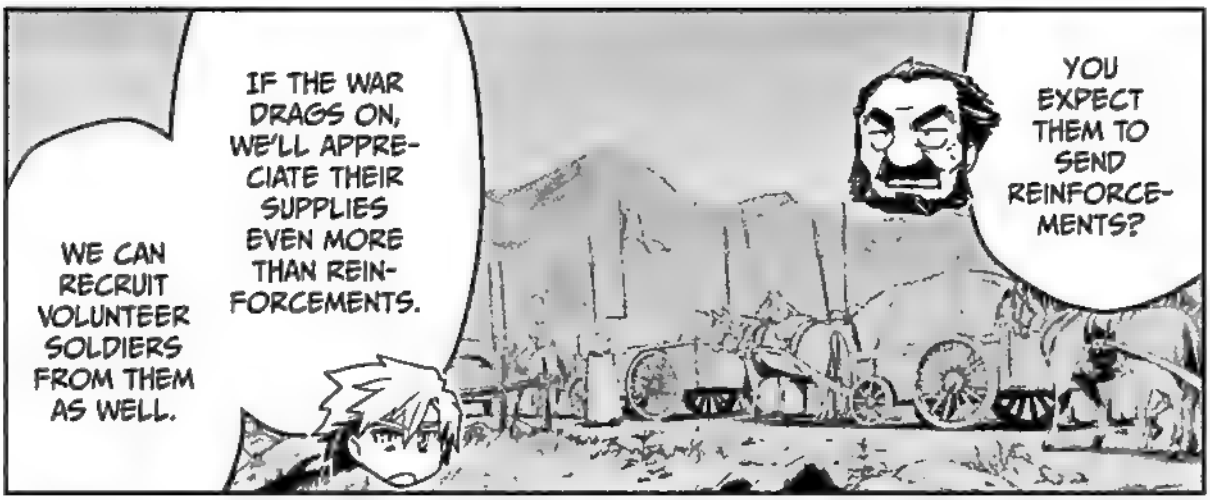
...WE HAVE AVOIDED ENGAGING THE DEMONS ON THE MOUNTAIN PASS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE DEFENSE FORCE.
YOU SEALED THE MOUNTAIN PASS.
AS YOU CAN SEE...
THEY ARE LED BY A YOUNG KING KNOWN AS THE SEAL KING.
THE DEMONS THAT SUDDENLY INVADED FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD THIS TIME ARE KNOWN AS THE BLUE DEMONS.
THEIR CLAN IS THE MOST WARLIKE OF THE SPIRIT WORLD.
THERE ARE 25,000 OF THEM.
THE SEAL KING KILLED THE PREVIOUS KING AND TOOK CONTROL OVER THE ARMY.
HE LED HIS BEST TROOPS INTO THE HUMAN WORLD.

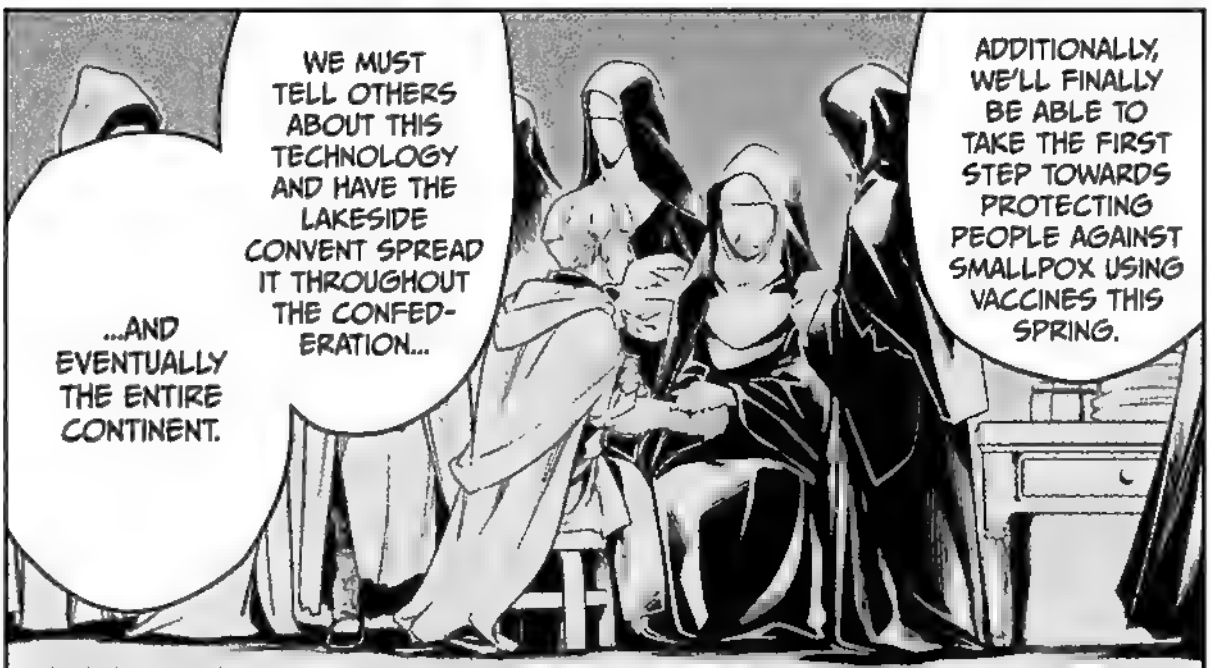
AT THIS RATE, OUR KINGDOMS MAY BE DESTROYED.
IN CONTRAST, BETWEEN OUR THREE KINGDOMS, WE HAVE BARELY 10,000 MEN.

WE ARE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS...
COULD IT BE?
HOW ARE THE COMMISSIONS OF AUTHORITY COMING ALONG?
BLIZZARD QUEEN.

!!
THE THREE KINGDOM TRADE ALLIANCE WILL BE RENAMED THE "SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION."
IT'S NOW OR NEVER.


ULTIMATELY THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION WILL SEEK TO EMANCIPATE ALL SERFS AND CONDUCT FREE TRADE UNDER A TRADE AGREEMENT.
CENTRAL CONTINENT AND HOLY KINGDOM
THE LAKE KINGDOM, THE TREETOP KINGDOM ...
...THE REED KINGDOM, AND THE RED HORSE KINGDOM.
WE SHOULD BEGIN OPERATING AS A CONFEDERATION OF NATIONS.
SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION
THESE KINGDOMS WILL DECLARE THEIR PARTICIPATION AND AGREE TO CERTAIN POLICIES.
MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM AND BLUE DEMON ARMY


WE CAN RECRUIT VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS FROM THEM AS WELL.
IF THE WAR DRAGS ON, WE'LL APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPLIES EVEN MORE THAN REINFORCEMENTS.
YOU EXPECT THEM TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS?

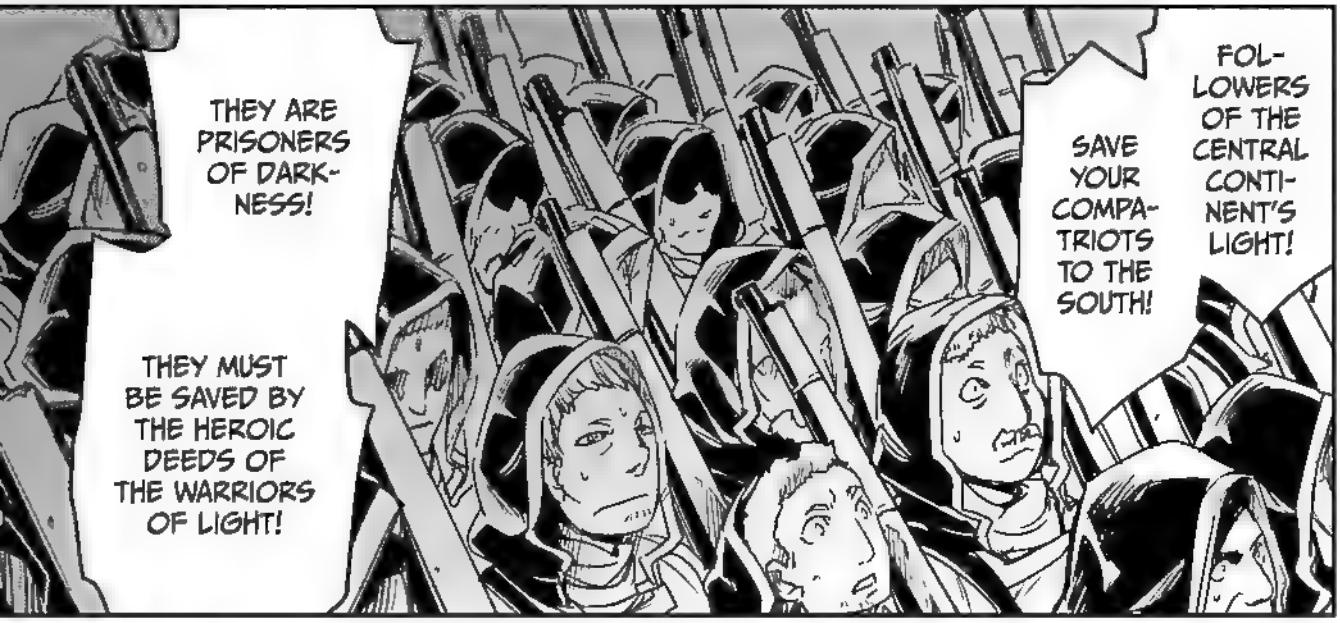

...AND EVENTUALLY THE ENTIRE CONTINENT.
WE MUST TELL OTHERS ABOUT THIS TECHNOLOGY AND HAVE THE LAKESIDE CONVENT SPREAD IT THROUGHOUT THE CONFEDERATION...
ADDITIONALLY, WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS PROTECTING PEOPLE AGAINST SMALLPOX USING VACCINES THIS SPRING.

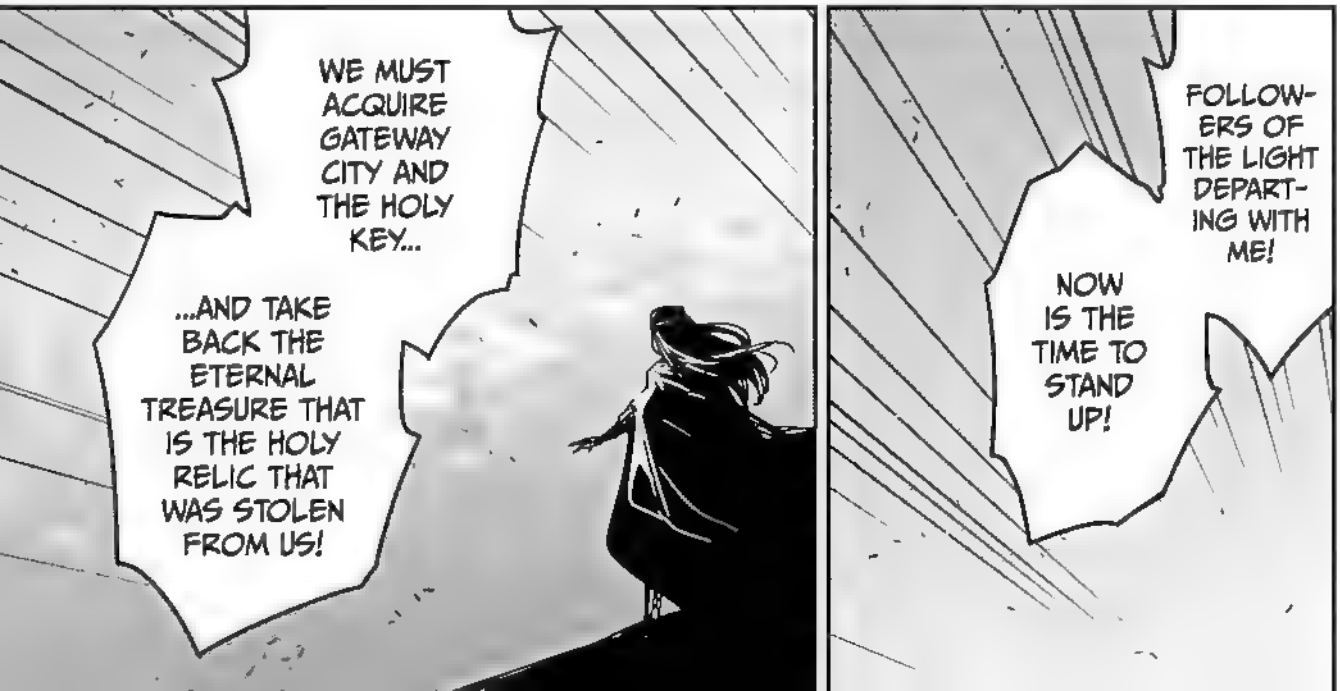
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR THREE KINGDOMS ...
...AND THE ENTIRE HUMAN WORLD, THE CONFED-ERATION MUST NOT FALL HERE.
OUR COM-MANDER WILL BE...
I'LL GO.
PLEASE DO.
HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE WAR TO GO?
OUR EN-EMIES ARE STRONGER AND MORE NUMEROUS.
IT WILL BE HARD TO WIN. EVEN IN THE BEST POSSIBLE SITUATION, WE CANNOT AVOID A DIFFICULT WAR.

I MUST DETERMINE THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
STEP
I AM HEADING TO THE BATTLEFIELD!
THE CENTRAL CONTINENT WILL NOT AID US...
...BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, I HOPE THEY DON'T ACT.

I WILL TELL YOU NOW THE SECRET OF THE HOLY RELIC!
IT IS THE REMAINS OF OUR SAVIOR, THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT!
THERE IS NO TREASURE LIKE IT IN THE WORLD!
CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT WHO HAVE GATHERED IN THE NAME OF THE HOLY LIGHTS!
CHOSEN WARRIORS!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO MARCH!
ROAR
CHEER

LONG AGO, THE DEMONS...
...STOLE THAT TREASURE FROM THE CHOSEN PEOPLE AND HID IT IN THE SPIRIT WORLD!
DRAWN BY ITS BRILLIANCE, THE KINGS OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS...
...BETRAYED HUMANKIND AND THE BENEVOLENCE OF THE SPIRITS!


FOLLOWERS OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S LIGHT!
SAVE YOUR COMPATRIOTS TO THE SOUTH!
THEY ARE PRISONERS OF DARKNESS!
THEY MUST BE SAVED BY THE HEROIC DEEDS OF THE WARRIORS OF LIGHT!


FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT DEPARTING WITH ME!
NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND UP!
WE MUST ACQUIRE GATEWAY CITY AND THE HOLY KEY...
...AND TAKE BACK THE ETERNAL TREASURE THAT IS THE HOLY RELIC THAT WAS STOLEN FROM US!

THAT WAS QUITE THE SPEECH.

I'M HON-ORED.

WHERE IS HIS GRACE?

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

ROAR

THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRITS WANT!

ROAR

THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRITS WANT!

ROAR

THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRITS WANT!

IT IS TIME FOR US TO GO TO WAR GUIDED BY THE LIGHT!

UNDER THE BANNER OF LIGHT...

...TO THE SOUTH!

ROAR
THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRITS WANT!
ROAR
THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRITS WANT!
IT IS TIME FOR US TO GO TO WAR GUIDED BY THE LIGHT!
UNDER THE BANNER OF LIGHT...
...TO THE SOUTH!

THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRITS WANT!
ROAR
ROAR
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT WAS QUITE THE SPEECH.
I'M HON-ORED.
WHERE IS HIS GRACE?

THE KING PLANS TO LEAVE SHORTLY AS WELL.
THE LILY KNIGHTS SHALL PROTECT HIM.
WE'LL LEAVE THE DE-STRUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN NUISANCES TO YOU.
THE LILY KNIGHT CAPTAIN
THE END
CHAPTER 35
An Old Story

CRUSADES and RECAPTURING the HOLY LAND

The noble cause of the crusades was to recapture the holy land. However, over time their motives shifted from religious to secular.

HISTORICAL CRUSADES

The "Holy Key Expeditionary Force" appearing in this work is a military expedition conducted primarily by the Central Church of Holy Light and the Holy Kingdom. Soldiers are mobilized in the name of the "Spirits of Light," making it a very religiously motivated expedition.

The most famous historical examples similar to the Holy Key Expeditionary Force are the Crusades fought to recapture the holy land of Jerusalem.

...BETRAYED HUMANKIND AND THE BENEVOLENCE OF THE SPIRITS!
DRAWN BY IT'S BRILLIANCE, THE KINGS OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS...
LONG AGO, THE DEMONS...
...STOLE THAT TREASURE FROM THE CHOSEN PEOPLE AND HID IT IN THE SPIRIT WORLD!

Speeches are effective for inspiring participants. The historical Crusades began with a speech from the Pope.

The first Crusade occurred in 1096. At the time, the Islamic Seljuq Dynasty near Turkey was growing in power. The Crusades began when the emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire asked the Pope for assistance.

Upon receiving the emperor's request, the Pope held a synod. The Pope instructed the French knights who gathered to assist the Eastern Roman Empire and wage a holy war against the infidels. Additionally, he instructed them to take back the holy land of Jerusalem and encouraged people to join the Crusade by saying it would absolve them of their sins.

The feudal lords and knights who had nothing to do with their military might responded to the summons of the Pope. They conquered the cities in their path as they marched, and in 1099, they invaded Jerusalem.

The very first Crusade was a religious war with the goal of recapturing the holy land. However, the original motivation for the way was the secular purpose of protecting one's territory, and some of the feudal lords who participated in the war left the expedition early to form the "Crusader states."

Additionally, the first Crusaders brought back to Europe goods from the east, and in later Crusades the number of participants motivated by materialistic desires instead of religion increased.

Roughly 90 years later, the Ayyubid Dynasty reclaimed Jerusalem. Though several Crusades were later conducted, they failed to take back Jerusalem.

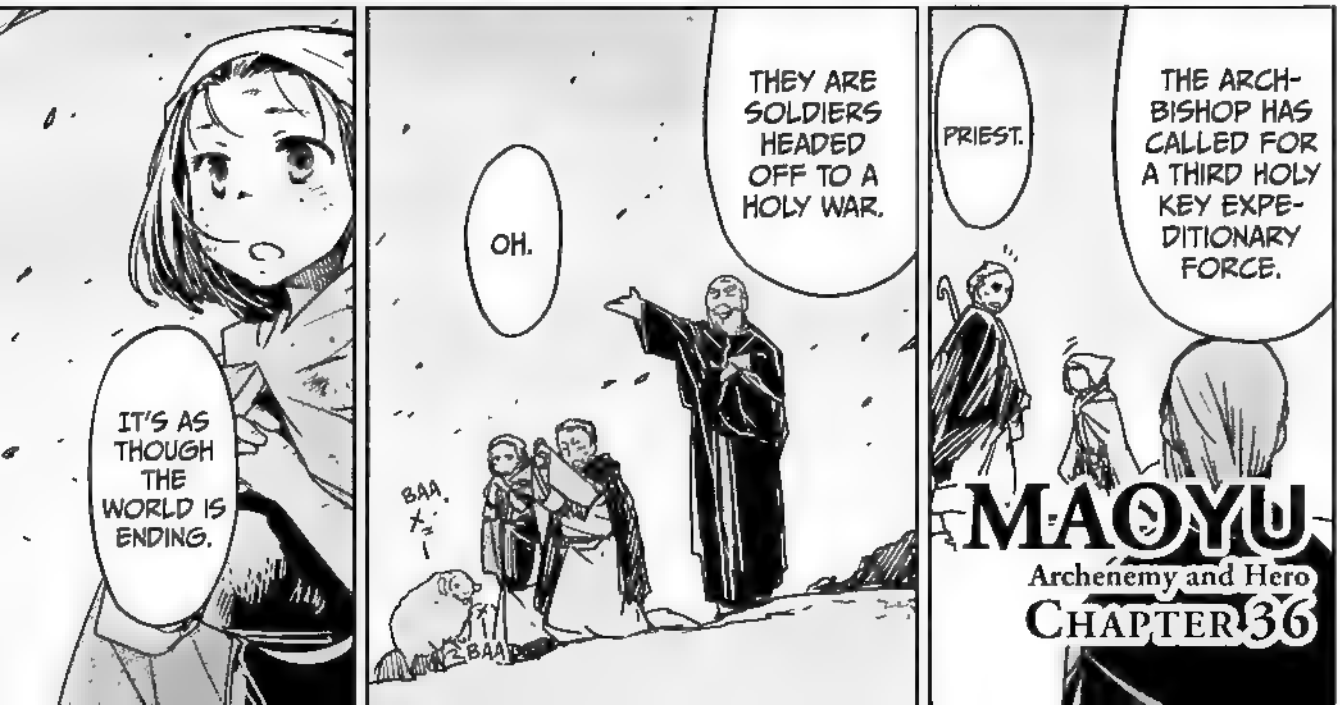
WE MUST ACQUIRE GATEWAY CITY AND THE HOLY KEY...
...AND TAKE BACK THE ETERNAL TREASURE THAT IS THE HOLY RELIC THAT WAS STOLEN FROM US!

What are the "holy key" and "holy relic" mentioned by the Crown Prince Marshal?

Several small scale Crusades were also conducted, many with the aim of subjugating forces opposing the Catholic Church. Eventually Christians fought against one another in Crusades, and the increasingly negative perception of Crusades made them stop entirely.

PRAYER

SNIP
SNIP
I'M SORRY.
YOU HAVE TO DO THIS TO AVOID DRAWING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF.
WHY?
WHY, MOM?
THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM ROYAL PALACE
DAMN HUMAN!
STOP RESISTING!
HA HA HA
ARGH!
DON'T ...
HEH HEH HEH
RUB
RUB
PLEASE SAVE US.
PLEASE.
HOLY SPIRITS.
HOLY SPIRITS OF LIGHT.
THE LOSERS MUST OBEY THE WINNERS!
HA HA HA


IT'S AS THOUGH THE WORLD IS ENDING.
OH.
THEY ARE SOLDIERS HEADED OFF TO A HOLY WAR.
BAA.
BAA
PRIEST.
THE ARCH-BISHOP HAS CALLED FOR A THIRD HOLY KEY EXPE-DITIONARY FORCE.

MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 36

Chapter 36
I Want to See the Other Side of the Hill Too

CHAPTER 36

I Want to See the Other Side of the Hill Too

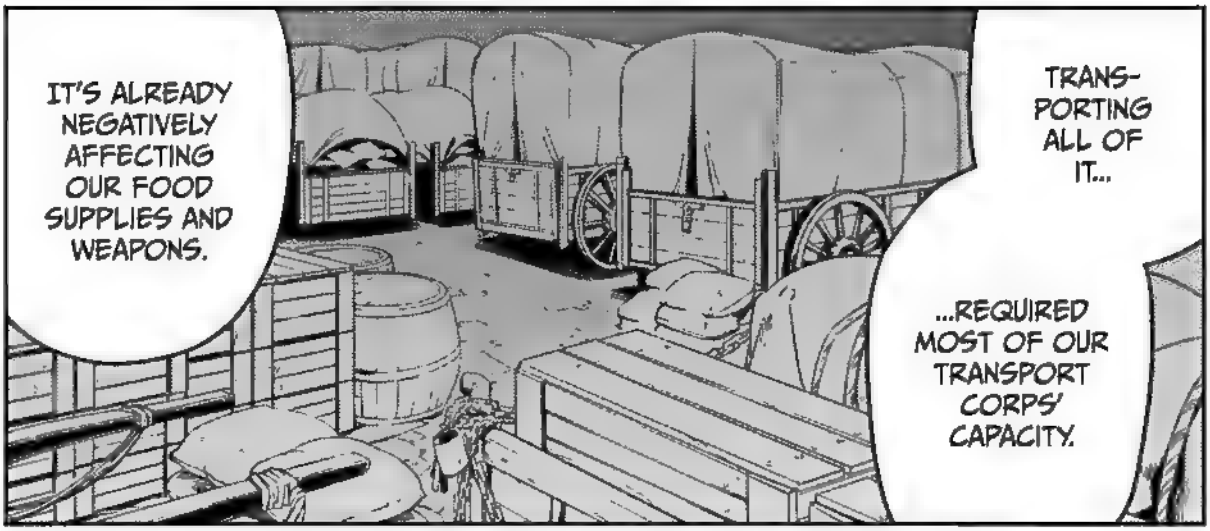
THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM CAPITAL

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY.
I WISH I COULD SAY OUR GREAT STRENGTH MADE IT EASY...
...BUT THE INFORMATION FROM THE HOLY KINGDOM HELPED.

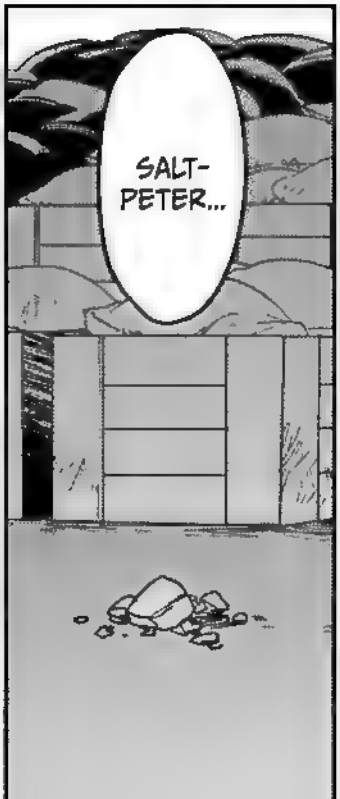
WHERE IS THE SEAL KING?
I WANTED TO SPEAK TO THE YOUNG KING OF THE BLUE DEMON CLAN.
THE KING IS MEDITATING...
BA-DUMP!

...TO BUILD UP HIS STRENGTH.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

AS YOU REQUESTED, WE TRANSPORTED THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT FROM OUR HOME TERRITORY.
RIGHT.
WHAT ABOUT OUR REQUEST?


IT'S ALREADY NEGATIVELY AFFECTING OUR FOOD SUPPLIES AND WEAPONS.
TRANSPORTING ALL OF IT...
...REQUIRED MOST OF OUR TRANSPORT CORPS' CAPACITY.

...IS REQUIRED FOR SEVERAL OF OUR INDUSTRIES.


SALTPETER...

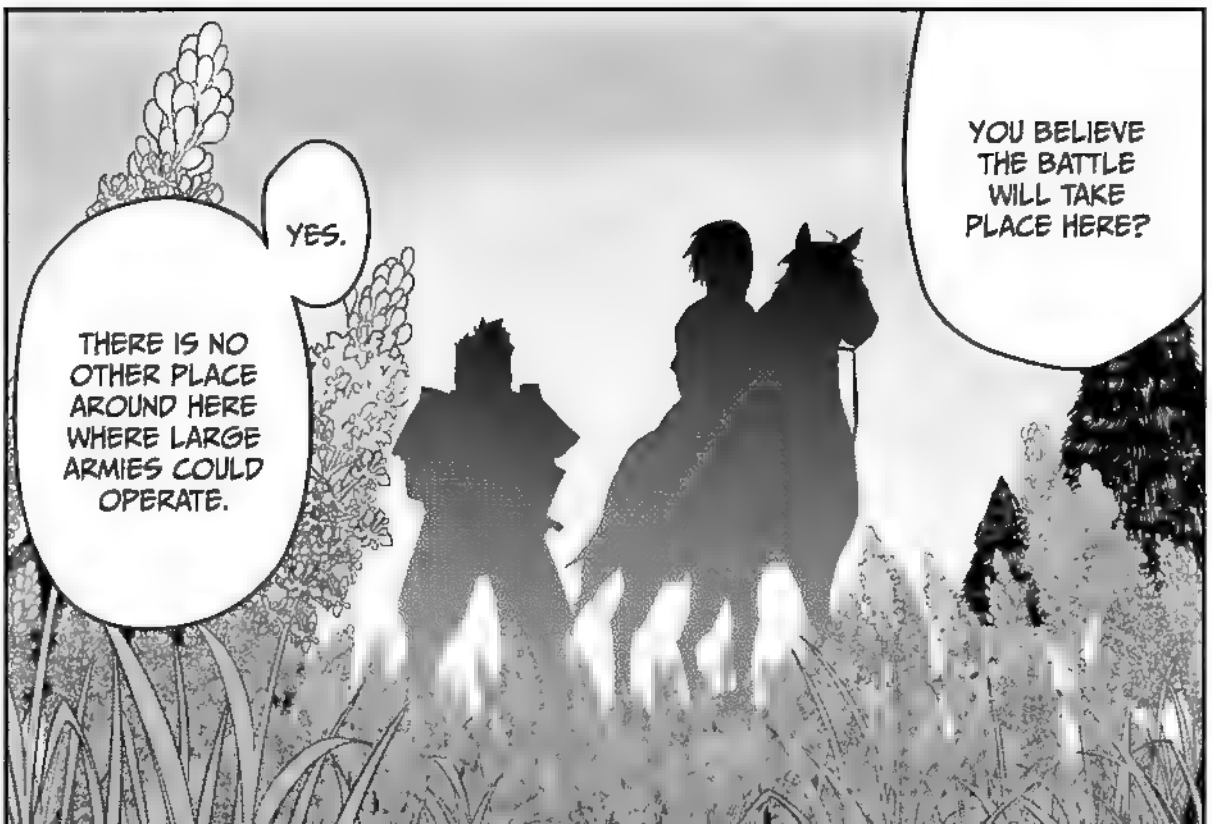
IT SEEMS TO BE QUITE VALUABLE.

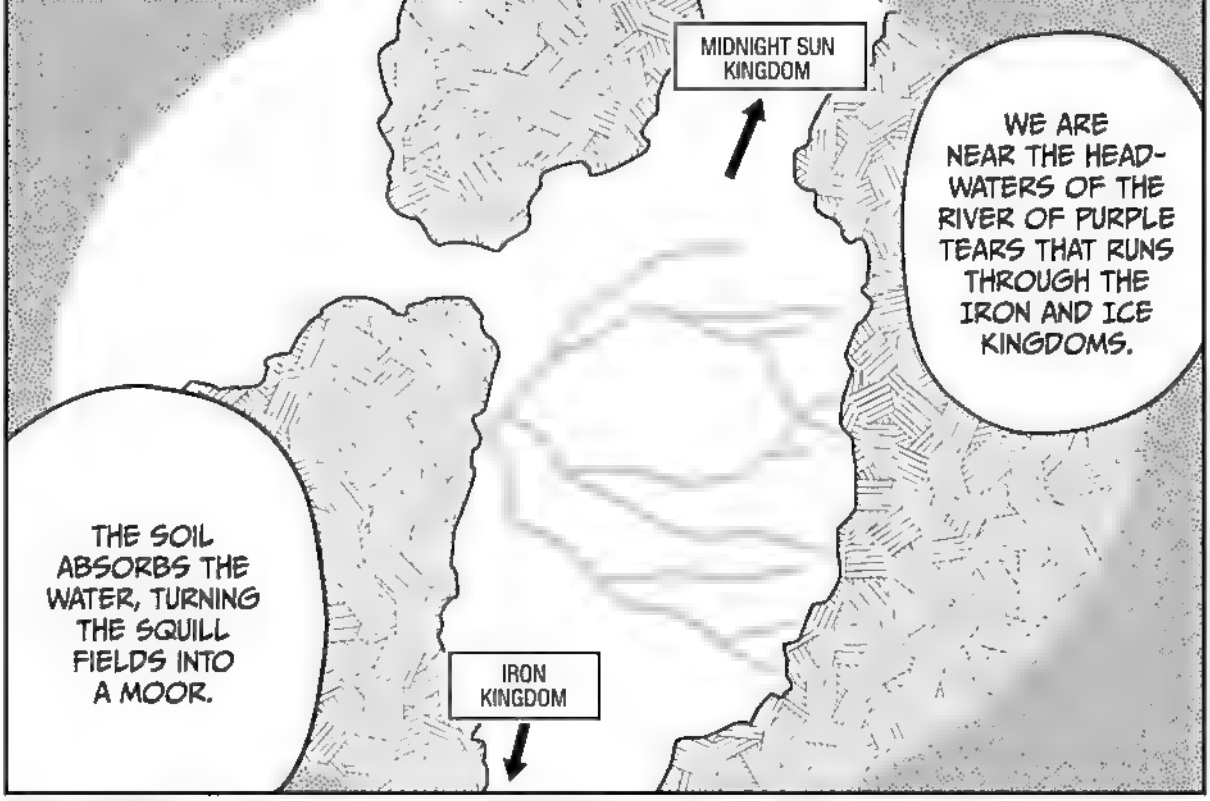
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO EXCHANGE ALL OF IT FOR THREE TIMES AS MUCH FOOD...
...AND NEW WEAPONS FOR 4,000 MEN?
ROUGHLY 900 WAGONS' WORTH.
HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE?
VERY WELL.
WE'LL EXCHANGE IT FOR FIVE TIMES AS MUCH FOOD AND THE WEAPONS.
WE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH HALF BEFORE LONG.
MARCH
MARCH
WHEN CAN WE GET THE FOOD SUPPLIES ?
WE'LL GIVE YOU HALF THE SALTPE-TER FOR NOW...
...AT LEAST UNTIL WE CONQUER THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM.

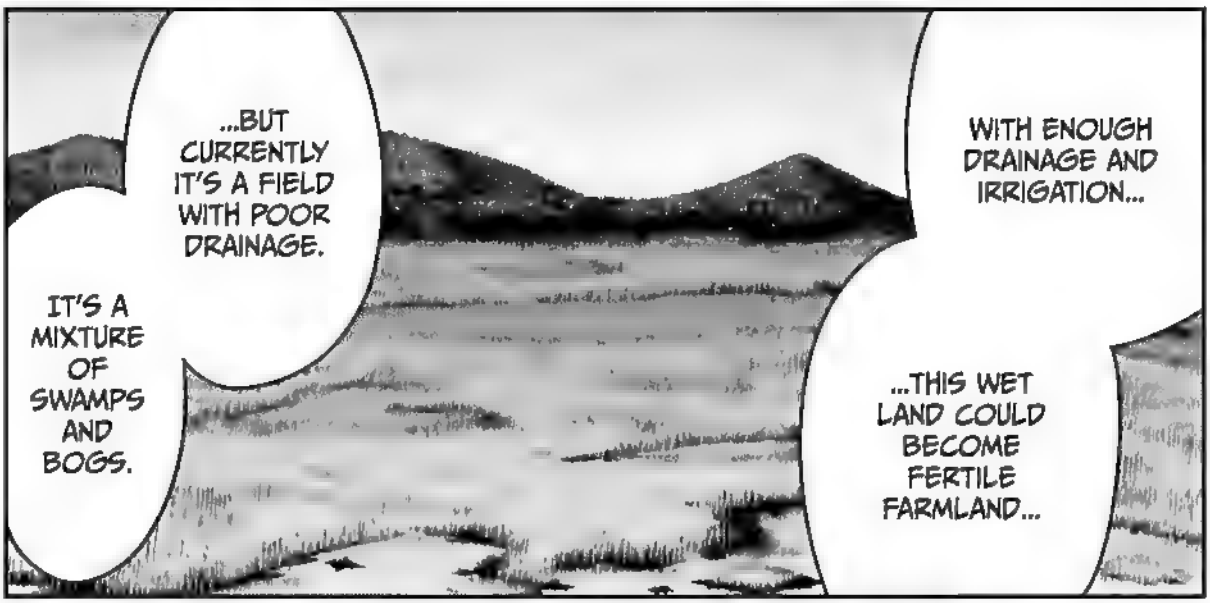
I HOPE THE NEXT KINGDOM PUTS UP MORE OF A FIGHT.
IT WAS TOO EASY.
CONQUERING THIS KINGDOM WAS EASIER THAN WE EXPECTED.
YOU'RE ALREADY PREPARING FOR THE NEXT BATTLE?
DON'T WORRY.
YOU WILL FIND THEM WORTHY OPPONENTS.
THEIR SOLDIERS ARE THE BEST IN THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS.
THE IRON KINGDOM, IS IT?
IT'S NOTHING.
NO.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HUH?
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT'S A PLANT.
ITS FLOWERS RANGE FROM WHITE TO DARK PURPLE.
WHAT IS SQUILL?
BETWEEN THE MIDNIGHT SUN AND IRON KINGDOMS, YOUR FORCES ARE LIKELY TO CLASH...
...ON THE SQUILL FIELDS.

HA HA HA
THAT COLOR IS A GOOD OMEN FOR THE BLUE DEMON CLAN.
PURPLE, HUH?


YES.
THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE AROUND HERE WHERE LARGE ARMIES COULD OPERATE.
YOU BELIEVE THE BATTLE WILL TAKE PLACE HERE?


MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM
WE ARE NEAR THE HEAD-WATERS OF THE RIVER OF PURPLE TEARS THAT RUNS THROUGH THE IRON AND ICE KINGDOMS.
THE SOIL ABSORBS THE WATER, TURNING THE SQUILL FIELDS INTO A MOOR.
IRON KINGDOM

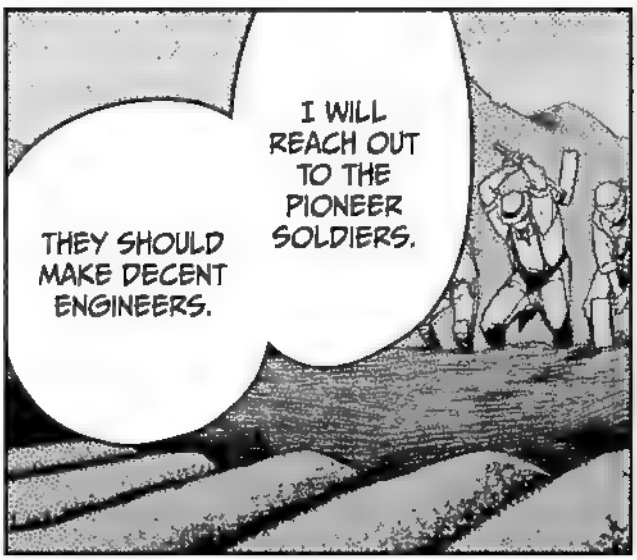

...BUT CURRENTLY IT'S A FIELD WITH POOR DRAINAGE.
IT'S A MIXTURE OF SWAMPS AND BOGS.
WITH ENOUGH DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION...
...THIS WET LAND COULD BECOME FERTILE FARMLAND...

THE SCOUTS PATROL ON HALF-DAY SHIFTS.
WE ARE WATCHING AT ALL TIMES.
HOW ARE YOU MANAGING PATROLS?

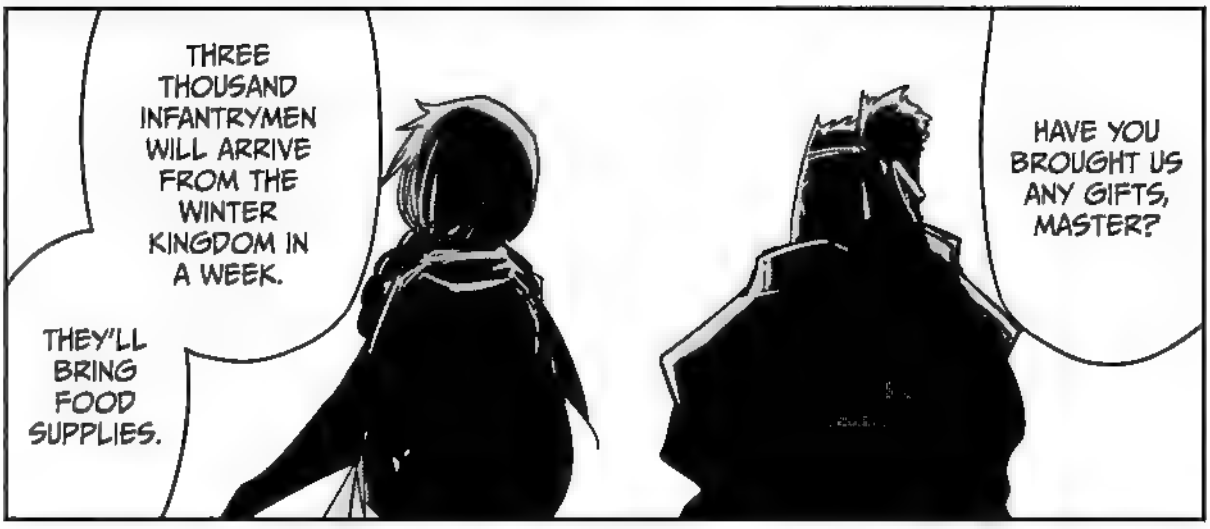
NOW THEN.
THE REAL BATTLE STARTS NOW.
ALL TOGETHER WE HAVE 5,500.
OUR ENEMIES ARE AT MOST 25,000 BLUE DEMONS.
THE BLUE DEMON ARMY IS WELL EQUIPPED AND DISCIPLINED.
THEY SEEM TO BE WELL TRAINED AS WELL.
IN OTHER WORDS, UNLESS THEIR COMMANDER IS AN IDIOT...
...WE CANNOT LET OUR GUARD DOWN.
CONSIDERING THEIR NUMBERS ARE FOUR TIMES GREATER THAN OURS...
...IF WE ENGAGE THEM IN A NORMAL BATTLE...
...WE ARE DESTINED...
...TO LOSE.
I AGREE.

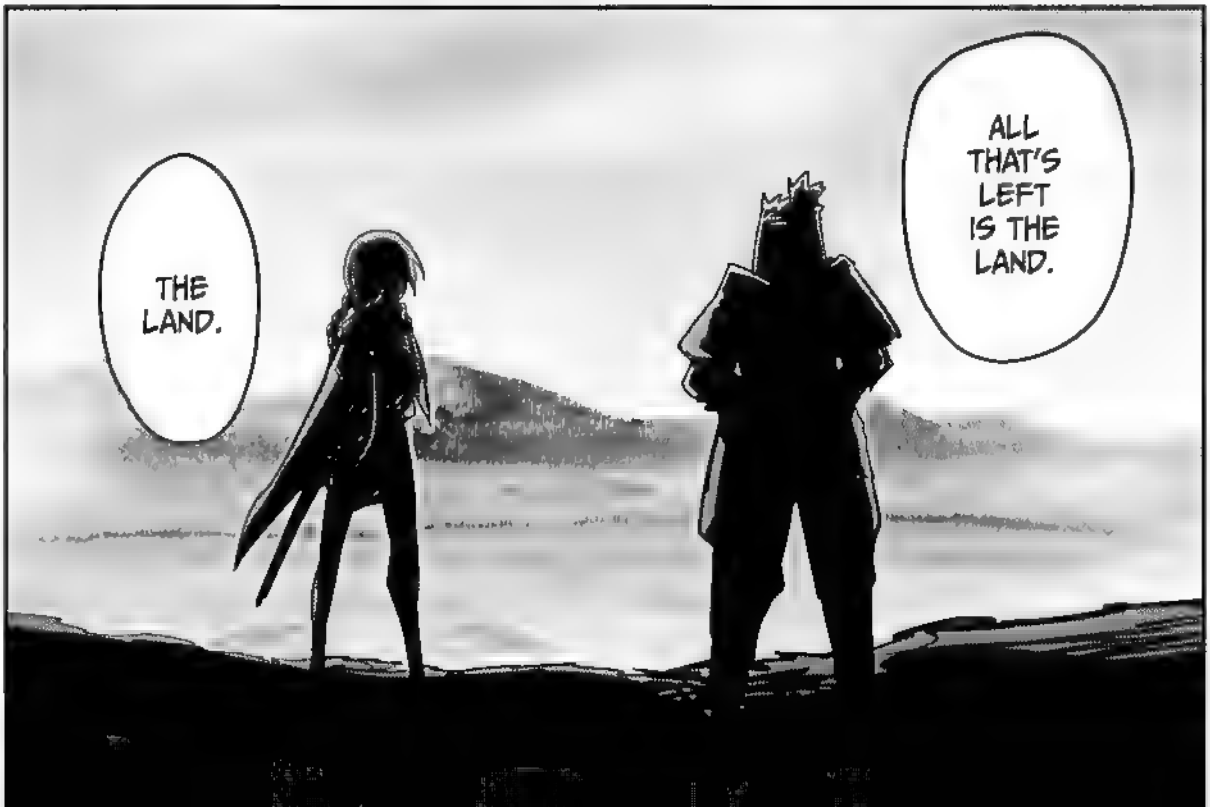
...WE CANNOT CREATE STRATEGIES.
WITHOUT A GOAL...
BEFORE THAT, I WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM...
...THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THIS WAR.
THEN WE MUST CONSIDER HOW WE'LL USE OUR RESOURCES.
YOU SHOULD ESTAB-LISH OUR GOAL.
YOU'RE A LORD PROTEC-TOR NOW, AREN'T YOU?
I TOOK MY LESSONS ON MILITARY STRATEGY SERIOUSLY.
YOU REMEM-BER.
...I WOULD INCLUDE THE PEOPLE OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM AS WELL.
NATU-RALLY...
"WHOSE" PEOPLE?
THAT WOULD BE PROTECTING THE PEOPLE.

WE'RE CURRENTLY IN A MOMENT OF CRISIS THAT WILL DETERMINE...
...WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE AND WHETHER OR NOT OUR KINGDOM WILL BE DESTROYED!
WAIT ...
WAIT A MINUTE!
THEN WE HAVE ONLY ONE GOAL.
DEFEAT THE BLUE DEMON CLAN AND LIBERATE THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM.
THOSE WHO SEEK "EVERY-THING"...
...ARE GIVEN ONLY "HALF."
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WORRY ABOUT THE CITIZENS OF ANOTHER NATION!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
NOW THEN.
WE'RE FACING QUITE THE TASK.
....

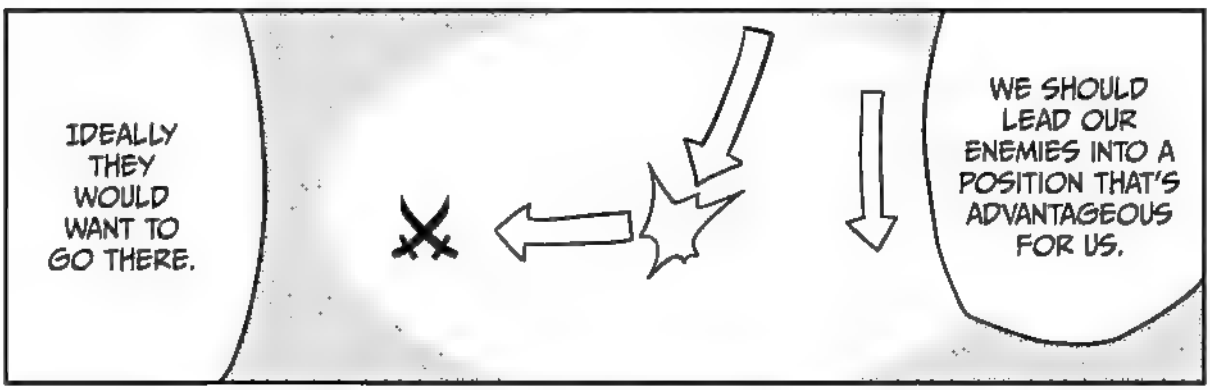

I WILL REACH OUT TO THE PIONEER SOLDIERS.
THEY SHOULD MAKE DECENT ENGINEERS.

YOU'RE STARTING THERE?
FIRST WE MUST MAKE UP FOR OUR LACK OF NUMBERS.


THREE THOUSAND INFANTRYMEN WILL ARRIVE FROM THE WINTER KINGDOM IN A WEEK.
THEY'LL BRING FOOD SUPPLIES.
HAVE YOU BROUGHT US ANY GIFTS, MASTER?

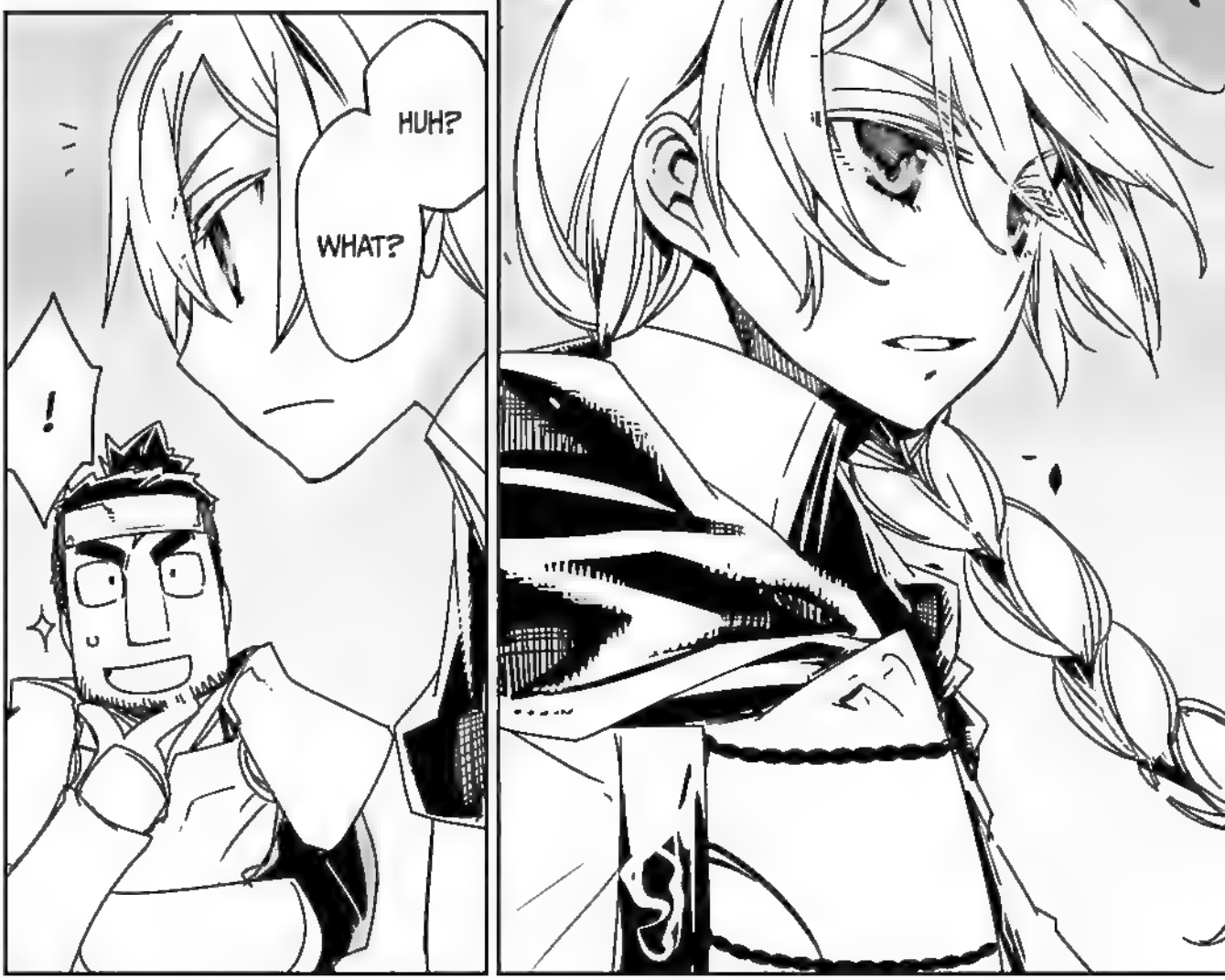

THE LAND.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE LAND.

BUT...
...AS I JUST EXPLAINED, OUR ENEMIES AREN'T STUPID.
THEY WON'T ENGAGE US ANYWHERE THEY'LL HAVE A DISADVANTAGE.
YES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.


WE SHOULD LEAD OUR ENEMIES INTO A POSITION THAT'S ADVANTAGEOUS FOR US.
IDEALLY THEY WOULD WANT TO GO THERE.

BAIT...
...HUH?

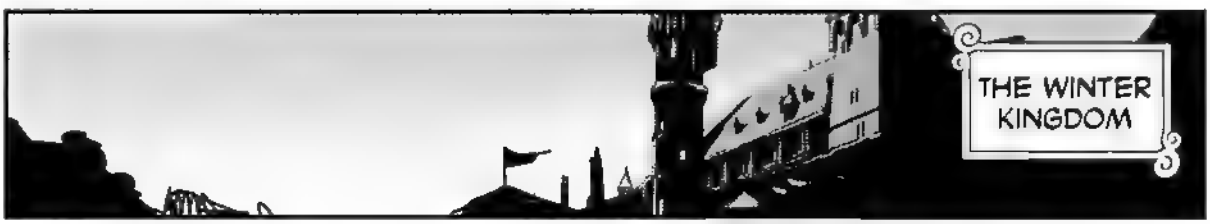
WE NEED BAIT.


HUH?
WHAT?
!

NO, NO!
EVERY-ONE AC-KNOWL-EDGES YOUR BEAUTY!
WHAT THE .
YOU ARE A FLOWER BLOOMING ON THE BATTLE-FIELD!

I WAS ADMIRING YOU.
WHAT?
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
THAT'S CREEPY.

NO OTHER BAIT...
...WILL HAVE THE BLUE DEMONS DROOLING AS MUCH AS YOU!


THE WINTER KINGDOM

REPORTS SAY THE FOOD AND WEAPONS ...
...HAVE CROSSED THE MOUNTAIN PASS.
THEY SHOULD ARRIVE IN THE IRON KINGDOM TOMORROW.
THE 3,000 INFANTRYMEN OF REINFORCEMENTS...
...WILL BE PREPARED TO LEAVE SHORTLY.
ALL RIGHT.
HAVE THEM LEAVE AS SOON AS THEY'RE READY.

DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S ALL RIGHT?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER.
BUT HE WAS THE KINDEST TO WOMEN AMONG THE APPRENTICES.
HE WON'T HURT HER.

THE ICE KINGDOM REMOTE TRADE VILLAGE
THIEF!
SPRINT
STOP!
DASH

WHAT KIND OF IDIOT STOPS WHEN HE'S TOLD TO?
DASH
AAAA
STEP
HA HA
DASH
CRASH
WHACK

YOU SHOULDN'T STEAL.
IT'S NOT VERY ELE-GANT.

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

INCH
WAIT!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
EEK
DAMN KID!
SHUFFLE
HEY! THANKS FOR STOPPING HIM!
EEK!
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME HANDLE THE BOY?
HUH?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A GUIDE WHO'S FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA.

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M CARRYING YOUR STUFF!
YOU'RE SO SLOW.
WALK QUICKLY.
COME ON.

PANT
PANT

YEAH.
BUT WHY ARE YOU...
IS THIS REALLY THE RIGHT WAY?

BUT I'M A GIRL.
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
I'M A FEEBLE NOBLE.
HA HA HA!

I CAN LEAVE NOW, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO GO.
HE'S PROB-ABLY IN THOSE RUINS.
RUSTLE
THAT'S WHY WE CAME.
BE-SIDES...
THOSE GUYS ARE BAD NEWS!
DON'T THINK THEY'RE LIKE OTHER BRIGANDS!
...THEY'VE ALREADY FOUND US.

NOW THEN.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, I MAY NOT LET YOU GO WITH YOUR LIVES.

I SEE.

I HEARD THERE WAS A POWERFUL MERCENARY COMPANY IN THE AREA.
I'M FROM THE WINTER KINGDOM.
WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE MET.

SO...
...WHICH IS IT?
DO YOU WANT US TO STEAL FROM SOME-ONE...
...OR SPARE THE WINTER KINGDOM?
WE'RE BANDITS NOW.
WE'LL DO ANY-THING FOR MONEY.
IT'LL DEPEND ON THE AMOUNT, THOUGH.
YOU'D BETTER OFFER ENOUGH SO WE DON'T THINK IT'S A BETTER USE OF OUR TIME...
...TO SELL YOU OFF TO SOMEONE OR HOLD YOU FOR RANSOM.

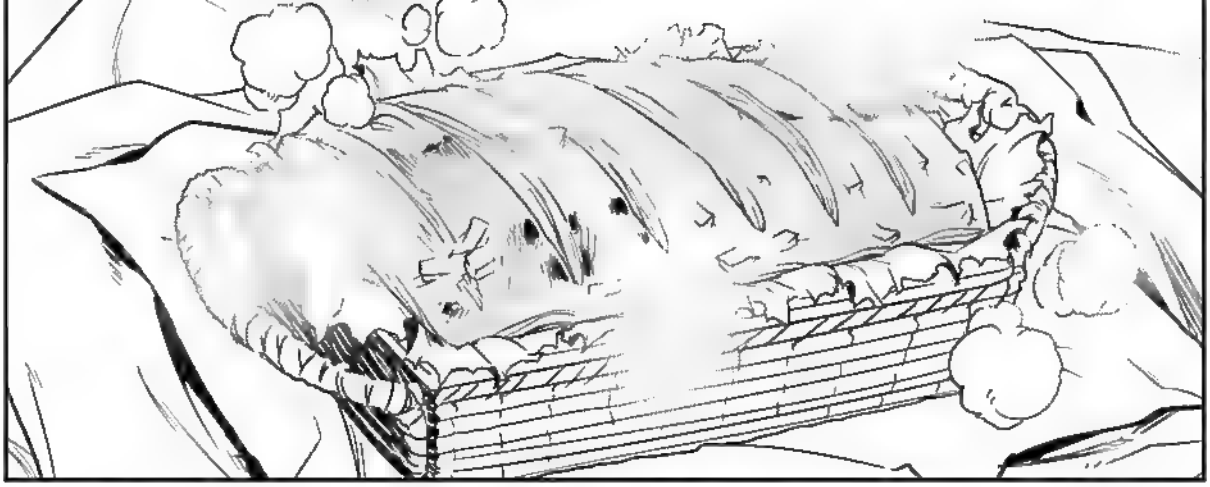
....
THE CAPITAL HAS FALLEN TO DEMONS.
I'D LIKE YOU TO SAVE THE CAPITAL.
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM?
MURMUR
WHAT ?!
YOUNG NOBLEMAN...
...IS THAT ALL YOU WANT TO SAY WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
SHOUT
SHOUT
SHOUT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

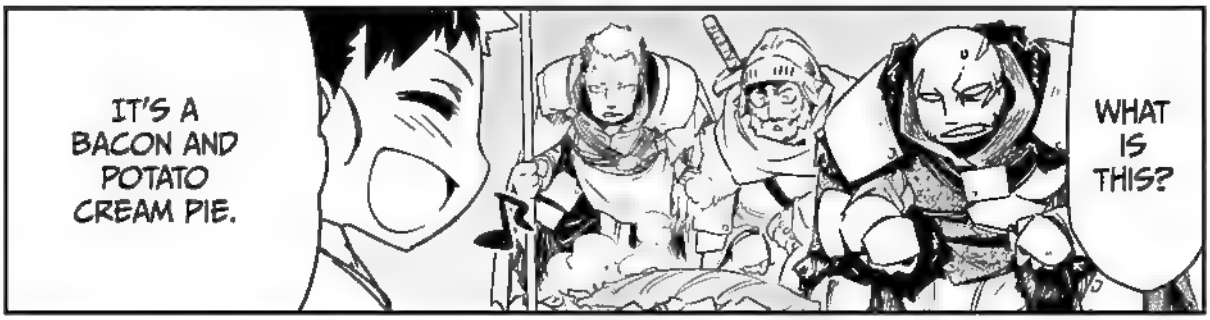
THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM HAS BEEN DESTROYED.
THEIR KING IS DEAD, AND THERE'S NO GOVERNMENT LEFT.
THAT PLACE IS THE "LAND ONCE KNOWN AS THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM."
ALL THAT'S LEFT...
...ARE STARVING AND EXPLOITED CITIZENS WHO ARE SLAVES LESS THAN SERFS.
THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S WHY THAT PLACE HAS SUCH A HIGH DEMAND FOR...
...THAT'S RIGHT...
...HEROES.

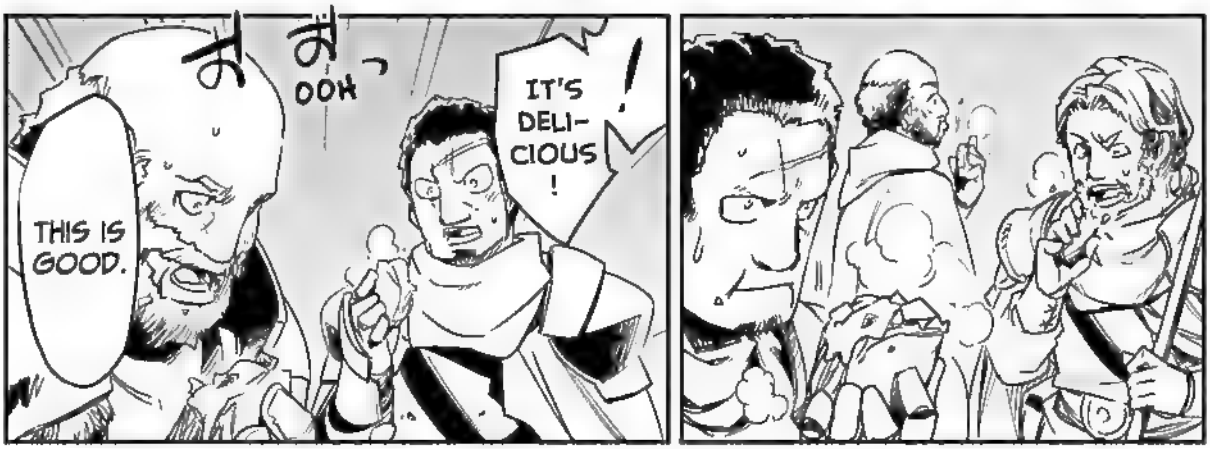
YOU...
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY BECOMING A LIBERATING ARMY?
NO.
I'M COMPLETELY SANE.
MY SCHOOL HAS A TRADITION OF SEEMING...
...CRAZIER THE MORE SANE IT BECOMES.
IT'S QUITE A BOTHER

ONE OF MY FELLOW APPRENTICES BELIEVES THEY WILL TAKE ALMOST THEIR ENTIRE ARMY WITH THEM.
HARDLY ANY OF THEIR FORCES WILL BE LEFT IN THE MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM.
THE DEMONS CURRENTLY CONTROLLING THE AREA...
...WILL INVADE THE NEIGHBORING IRON KINGDOM SHORTLY.

YOUR EQUIPMENT AND HORSES ARE WELL MAINTAINED.
YOUR UNIT MOVES AS ONE.
YOU THINK SIMPLE BANDITS CAN SAVE A KINGDOM?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT WILL YOU PAY?
YOU ARE NOT ORDINARY BANDITS.
YOU'RE A MERCENARY COMPANY WAITING FOR THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY.
RUSTLE
?



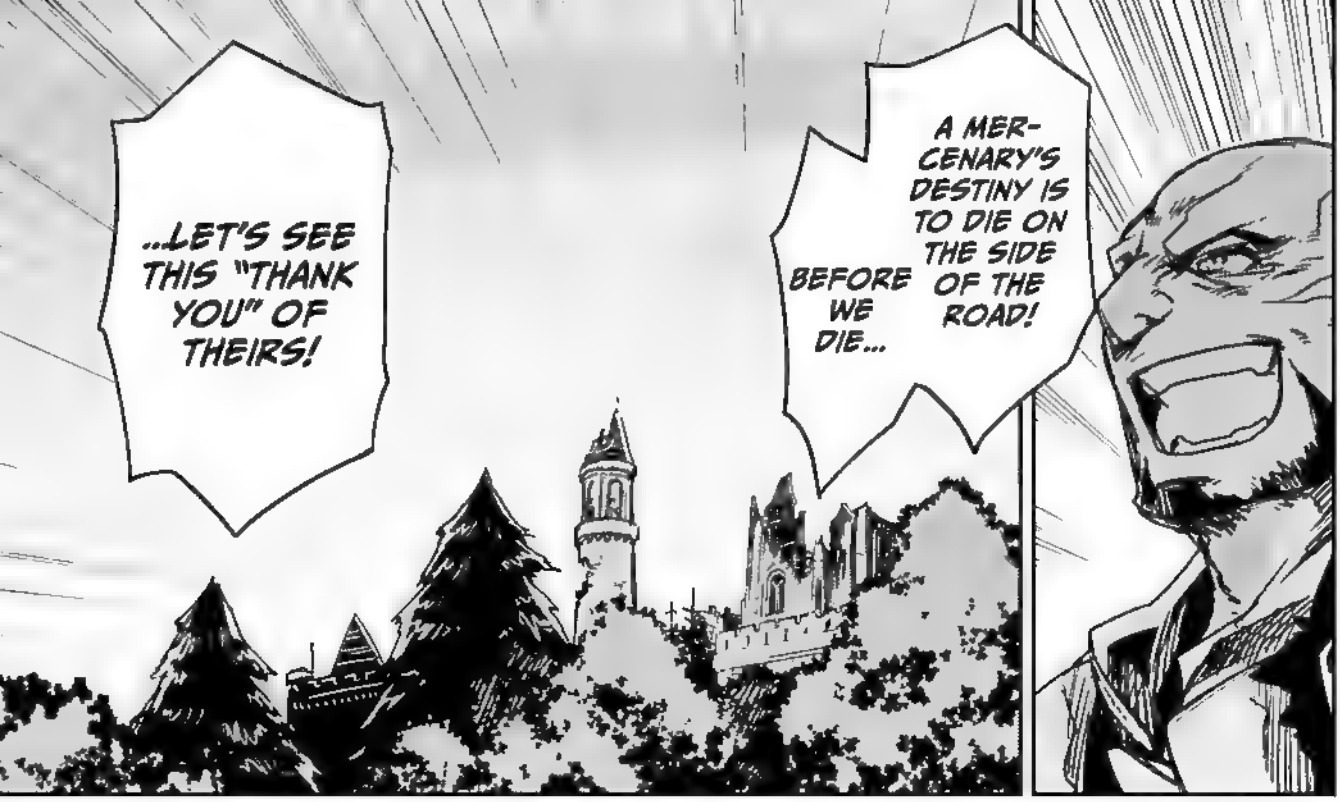

IT'S A BACON AND POTATO CREAM PIE.
WHAT IS THIS?

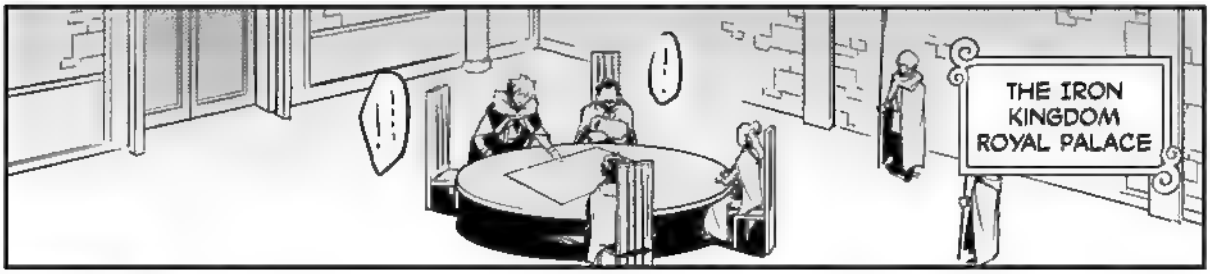

THIS IS GOOD.
OOH
IT'S DELI-CIOUS!

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT?
THEY WILL THANK YOU.
THE PEOPLE WILL BE GRATE-FUL.
YOU WILL BE THE HEROES WHO SAVED THEM FROM HELL.

WHAT?
IF YOU SAVE THE MIDNIGHT SUN KING-DOM...
...YOU CAN EAT THIS FOREVER.

THIS IS GOOD.
IT GETS BETTER AND BETTER...
...THE MORE YOU EAT.
CAN I HAVE ANOTHER?
WE HAVE TO WORK NOW!
YOU'VE GIVEN US A DELICIOUS ADVANCE!
VERY WELL!
CHEER
WE'RE GOING TO BATTLE!
MEN!
CONTACT THE MAJOR PLAYERS IN THE AREA!


...LET'S SEE THIS "THANK YOU" OF THEIRS!
A MERCENARY'S DESTINY IS TO DIE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD!
BEFORE WE DIE...


!
!!
THE IRON KINGDOM ROYAL PALACE

FLOAT

RE-ALLY?
THANKS!
OH.
LET THEM THROUGH.
YOUR GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, HERO.

BY THE WAY...
...THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU.

THIS IS THE WINGED FAIRY.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I AM THE FAIRY QUEEN.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

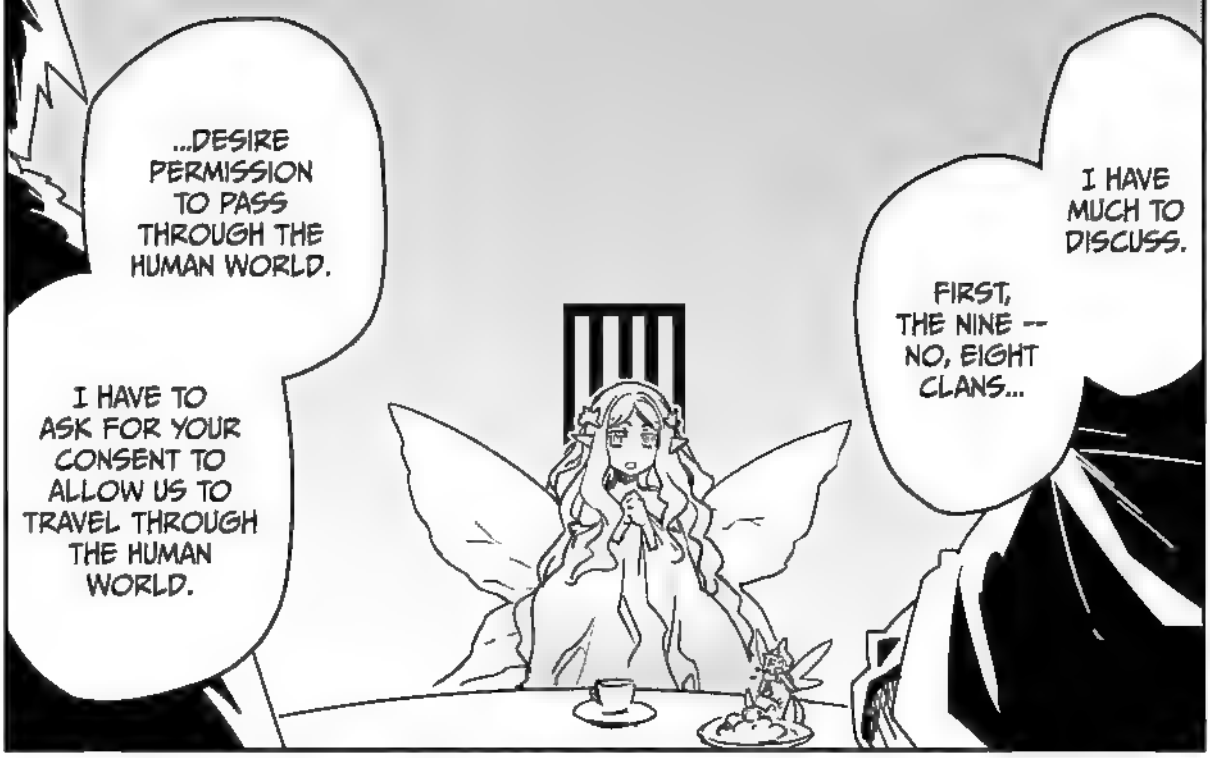
THEY ARE DELICATE CREATURES OF DAWN AND TWILIGHT LIVING IN THE FOREST.
SHE IS THE CHIEF OF THE FAIRY CLAN.
HER CLAN IS ONE OF EIGHT CLANS...
...FORMING THE SPIRIT WORLD'S GRAND CONFERENCE OF DEMONS KNOWN AS THE KURULTAI.

SHE'S...
SHE'S...
...A DEMON ?!
MURMUR
HA HA HA
CLATTER

SHE IS HERE AT THE WILL OF THE COUNCIL AND THE DEMON QUEEN.
SHE IS HERE AS A SPECIAL ENVOY...
...OF THE KURULTAI, THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE SPIRIT WORLD.
UMM...
IT'S OKAY.
GUARDS!
GUARDS!
SHE REPRE-SENTS THE DEMONS?
THE DEMON QUEEN?
CLINK
CLATTER
CLANK
HERO.
HERO!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

NO.
I'M SERIOUS.
THIS ISN'T A JOKE, IS IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHE'S A DEMON!
FAIRY QUEEN.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE LENGTHY JOURNEY TO GET HERE.

HER STATUS IN THE SPIRIT WORLD IS EQUIVALENT TO ROYALTY IN OURS.
EVEN ROYALTY OF OPPOSING NATIONS MUST BE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY.
BE-SIDES ...
...SHE HAS ONLY BROUGHT WITH HER A SINGLE WEAK LOOKING LADY IN WAITING.
SHE HAS COME UNARMED TO EARN OUR TRUST.
BUT...
THE HERO BROUGHT HER HERE TOO.
LET US TRUST HIM.
HMPH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
PEOPLE WOULD LAUGH AT ME FOR GENERATIONS TO COME IF I WERE SO FRIGHTENED BY A WOMAN...
...I COULDN'T HOLD A CONVER-SATION.
I WILL LISTEN.
CLANK
WHEW
THANK YOU.


...DESIRE PERMISSION TO PASS THROUGH THE HUMAN WORLD.
I HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR CONSENT TO ALLOW US TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE HUMAN WORLD.
I HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.
FIRST, THE NINE -- NO, EIGHT CLANS...

WELL...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THEM TO FIND OUT.
ARE THEY TRYING TO INVADE HUMAN LANDS AGAIN?

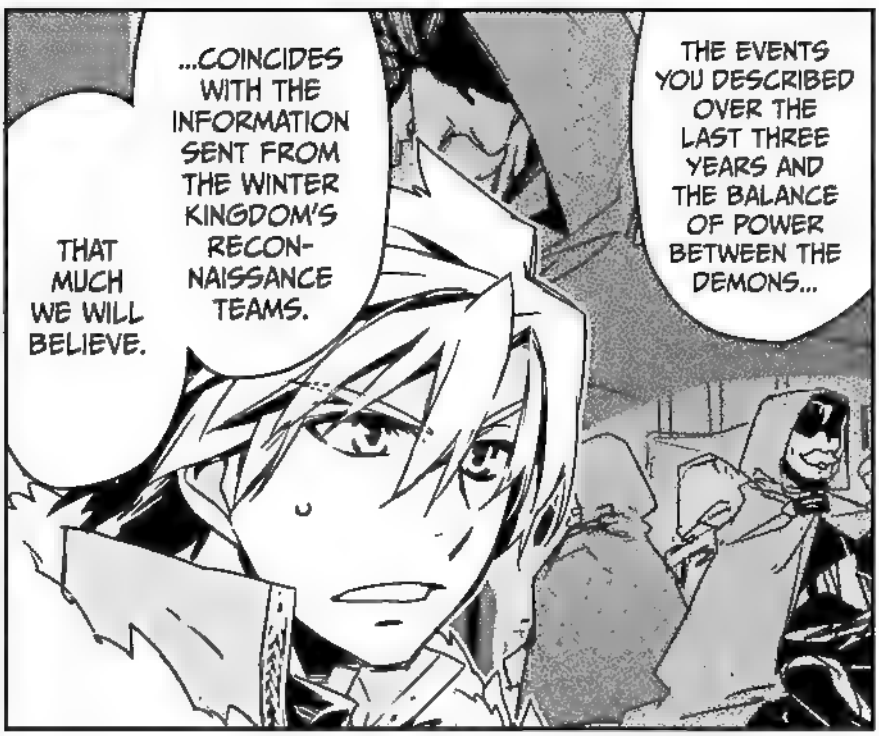
I WILL SPEAK WITH ANYONE IF I THINK IT IS RIGHT.

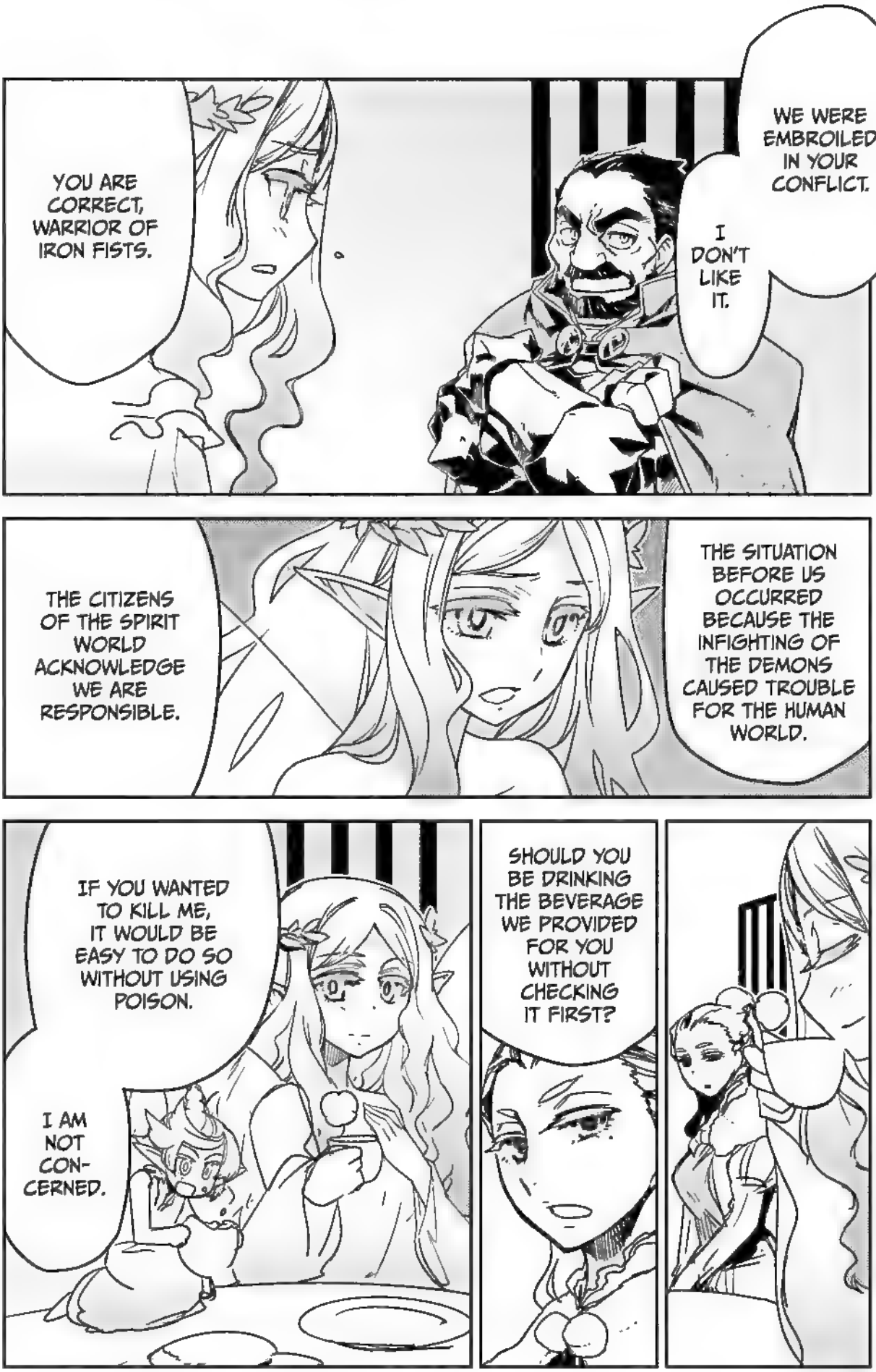
ARE YOU IN CONTACT WITH THE DEMONS?
...WHY DID YOU ARRIVE WITH A DEMON?
FIRST, HERO...

IT ALL BEGAN...
WELL...
THESE EVENTS BEGAN WITH...
...THE DEMON QUEEN'S LONG RECOVERY FROM HER WOUNDS...
...AND THE KURULTAI.

MUCH OF THIS IS NEWS TO ME.
YOU CANNOT EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE IT IMMEDIATELY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.
AFTER ALL, THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME SPEAKING WITH A DEMON.

...AND INVADED THE SURFACE'S MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM.
AND THE BLUE DEMONS WERE CHASED OUT OF THE SPIRIT WORLD...


THE EVENTS YOU DESCRIBED OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS AND THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE DEMONS...
...COINCIDES WITH THE INFORMATION SENT FROM THE WINTER KINGDOM'S RECONNAISSANCE TEAMS.
THAT MUCH WE WILL BELIEVE.


WE WERE EMBROILED IN YOUR CONFLICT.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
YOU ARE CORRECT, WARRIOR OF IRON FISTS.
THE SITUATION BEFORE US OCCURRED BECAUSE THE INFIGHTING OF THE DEMONS CAUSED TROUBLE FOR THE HUMAN WORLD.
THE CITIZENS OF THE SPIRIT WORLD ACKNOWLEDGE WE ARE RESPONSIBLE.
SHOULD YOU BE DRINKING THE BEVERAGE WE PROVIDED FOR YOU WITHOUT CHECKING IT FIRST?
IF YOU WANTED TO KILL ME, IT WOULD BE EASY TO DO SO WITHOUT USING POISON.
I AM NOT CON-CERNED.

IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, WE LOVE OUR GREEN SUN...
...AND WE LOVE THE GIFTS OF THE GREEN SUN.
THIS IS SURFACE TEA?
I CAN FEEL ITS STRENGTH.
HOW-EVER...
...THIS TEA IS A GIFT OF THE SURFACE'S SON.
IT IS A WONDERFUL THING.

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN OUR THOUGHTS.
I HAVE COME...
...AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KURULTAI AND ITS NEWLY FORMED CLANS AND THE DEMON QUEEN'S WILL.
WE ASK FOR YOUR PERMISSION TO SEND AN ARMY TO FIGHT THE BLUE DEMONS.
WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING THEM TO RUN OUT OF CONTROL.
FIRST, WE BELIEVE THE BLUE DEMONS MUST BE DEFEATED.
...TO RESOLVE EACH ISSUE AT A TIME.
...WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT...
THOUGH WE ACTUALLY DESIRE A CEASEFIRE WITH THE ENTIRE HUMAN WORLD...
ADDITIONALLY, WE WISH TO CEASE HOSTILITIES WITH THE THREE KINGDOM TRADE ALLIANCE.

ROUGHLY 10,000.
HOW MANY SOLDIERS WOULD YOU SEND?
I CANNOT DENY THE POSSIBIL-ITY.
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU'RE NOT LYING...
...AND AREN'T ACTUALLY PLANNING TO ASSIST THE BLUE DEMONS IN CONQUERING THE HUMAN WORLD?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SUDDENLY TRUST AN ENEMY WHO WAS TRYING TO KILL YOU UNTIL YESTERDAY.
LOOK.
THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS.

A THOU-SAND?
MAID-ENS?
...NEAR THE BORDER OF THIS KINGDOM.
...HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE GIANT CAVE AND ARE WAIT-ING...
A THOU-SAND OF MY FAIRY MAIDENS ...
CAN YOU TRUST US THEN?
...MY MAIDENS AND I WILL STAY IN THIS CASTLE AS HOSTAGES.
UNTIL THE SPIRIT WORLD'S ARMY WITH-DRAWS...
!

HERO.
HERO, WHY DID YOU BRING US...
...AND THE DEMONS TOGETHER TO TALK?
I HAVE MY OWN INTENTIONS AND PURPOSES...
...BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE DISCUSSING YOUR OWN INTERESTS RIGHT NOW INSTEAD?
HMPH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT A SUBJECT OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS.
OH.
YOU SEEM CONFUSED, SO I'LL TELL YOU.

I'M NOT THE PROTECTOR OF THE HUMAN WORLD.
I AM A HERO.
I SAVE ALL WORLDS THAT ASK FOR HELP.
IF THEY REQUIRE MY ASSIS-TANCE...
...NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS...
...I WILL GO TO THE RESCUE.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ENEMIES OR ALLIES.
WILL YOU OPPOSE THE HUMANS?
AS LONG AS I HAVE THE STRENGTH.
WILL YOU SAVE US IF WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP?
HELP.
THAT'S RIGHT.
HELP?

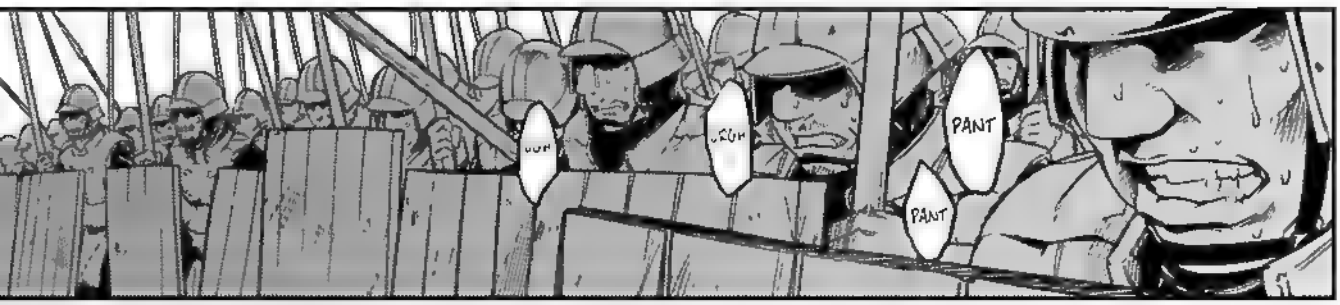
I BELIEVE THIS MEETING...
...WILL SAVE THE WORLD.
YES.
I BELIEVE THIS DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FAIRY QUEEN AND THE THREE MONARCHS...

AAARGH!
SPLURCH!
SEAL...
SEAL KING, ARE YOU AWAKE?
TWITCH
EH?

RUMBLE
SLURP
BOOM

THE SEAL KING HAS FINISHED...
...MEDI-TATING.
ゴ RUMBLE
ゴゴ
ゴゴ RUMBLE
ゴゴ
YES! SIR!
ARE YOU READY?
LET'S GO.
STEP

TO WAR!
TO WAR!
STEP

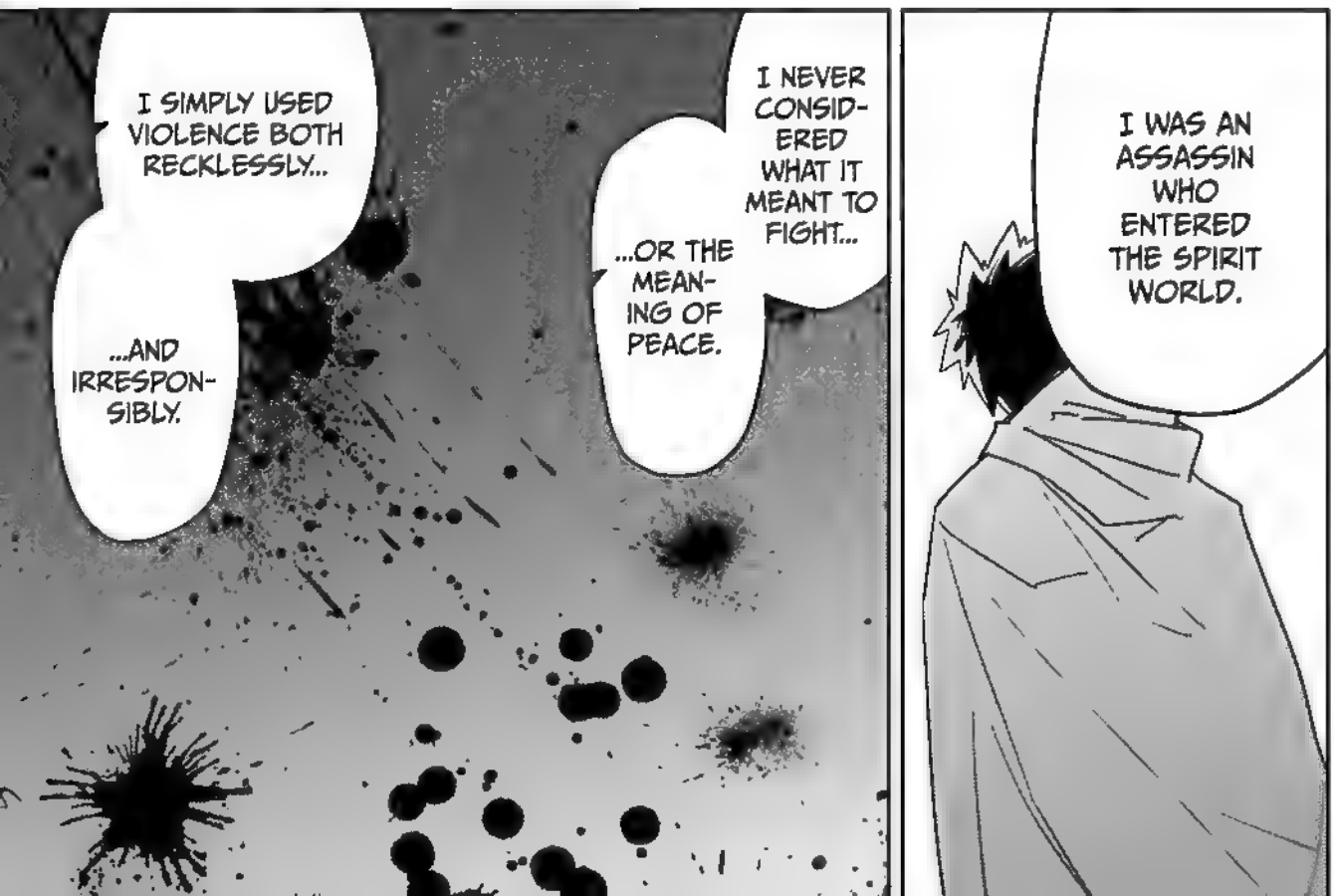

UGH
UGH
PANT
PANT

ADVANCE!
RUMBLE

COME ON!
MOVE QUICKLY!
UGH

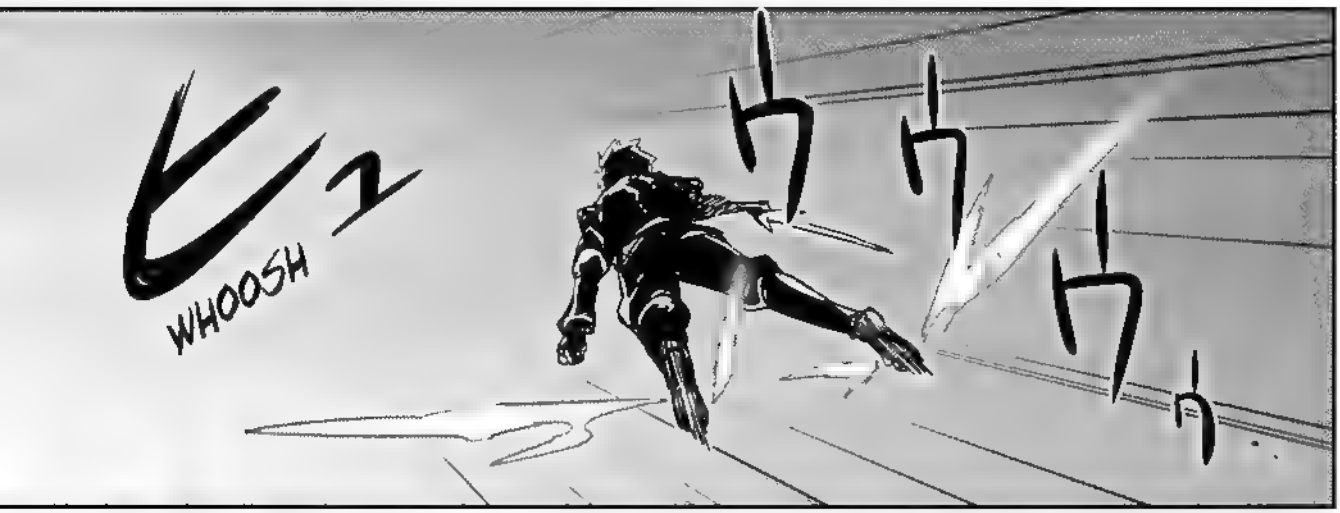
MURMUR
...ARE HEADED THIS WAY!
ROUGHLY 20,000 OF THE BLUE DEMONS...
THEY'RE MOVING!
GALLOP
TAKE YOUR POSI-TIONS!
ROAR
ALL RIGHT! WE'LL MEET THEM HERE JUST AS WE PLANNED!
RUMBLE
AN EARTH-QUAKE?
WHAT IS THIS?
OOH.
CHATTER
CHATTER
RUMBLE
!

RUMBLE
BUT...
...WE AREN'T HIS OPPONENT.
RUMBLE
YES.
COULD IT BE?


I SIMPLY USED VIOLENCE BOTH RECKLESSLY...
...AND IRRESPONSIBLY.
I NEVER CONSIDERED WHAT IT MEANT TO FIGHT...
...OR THE MEANING OF PEACE.
I WAS AN ASSASSIN WHO ENTERED THE SPIRIT WORLD.

I WON'T DREAM OF REACHING A NEW WORLD BY DOING THAT ANYMORE.
BUT...
...I'M DONE DOING THAT.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
I AM GOING TO FULFILL MY PURPOSE.
SLIP
I...
I WANT TO SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL TOO.
MON-ARCHS.
DON'T STOP CON-SIDERING WHAT IS THE RIGHT PATH.
RUMBLE

ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
ゴゴ
ドン
WHOOSH


ヒュン
WHOOSH
ウウウウ

ゴゴゴ
ROAR
ゴゴゴ
ドン
BA-DUMP

DID YOU FLEE TO THE HUMAN WORLD BECAUSE YOU FAILED IN THE SPIRIT WORLD...
..."CANDI-DATE"?

I AM THE TRUE DEMON KING.
IF YOU ARE A HERO, YOU MUST RECOG-NIZE MY STRENGTH.
THE POWER OF THE DEMON MONARCHS THAT WOMAN REJECTED...
...IS NOW MINE.

I WILL KILL YOU...

...AND THE DEMON QUEEN ...

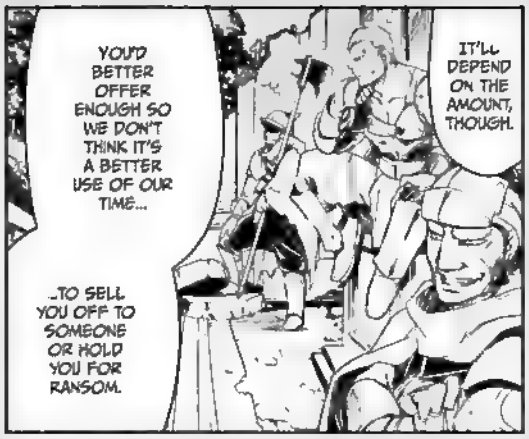
...AND RULE OVER THE SPIRIT AND HUMAN WORLD AS THEIR KING.

THE END

CHAPTER 36
I Want to See the Other Side of the Hill Too

MERCENARIES OF EUROPE

Mercenaries, whose profession is fighting, served as the primary force in battles fought throughout Europe from the 15th to 18th Centuries.


YOU'D BETTER OFFER ENOUGH SO WE DON'T THINK IT'S A BETTER USE OF OUR TIME...
...TO SELL YOU OFF TO SOMEONE OR HOLD YOU FOR RANSOM.
IT'LL DEPEND ON THE AMOUNT, THOUGH.

Mercenaries were sometimes paid in plunder or ransoms of kidnapped nobles.

THE ANCIENT PROFESSION OF THE MERCENARY

Mercenaries are men hired in exchange for money or other benefits to fight in wars in which they have no direct stake. Their history is ancient, and they already existed in the near east before the common era.

The most famous ancient European mercenaries are the Carthaginian army who fought against the Roman Republic in the Punic Wars of the 3rd Century BCE. The city-state of Carthage prospered through maritime trade. Its citizens were merchants unskilled in combat. Using the wealth they acquired through trade they hired mercenaries to protect their nation. The soldiers who faced the Romans in the war were not the citizens of Carthage but mercenaries.

In the Middle Ages, feudal knights served as the main fighting force in wars. At the time, armies led by kings were composed primarily of the soldiers of the feudal lords serving them, and kings rarely had soldiers under their direct control. Because of this, kings would hire mercenaries to supplement their forces every time a war broke out. Though they were not kings, the flourishing trade centers of the Italian republics Venice and Genoa hired many mercenaries. Nations also had national armies, but they strengthened their defenses against foreign invaders seeking riches by hiring mercenaries.

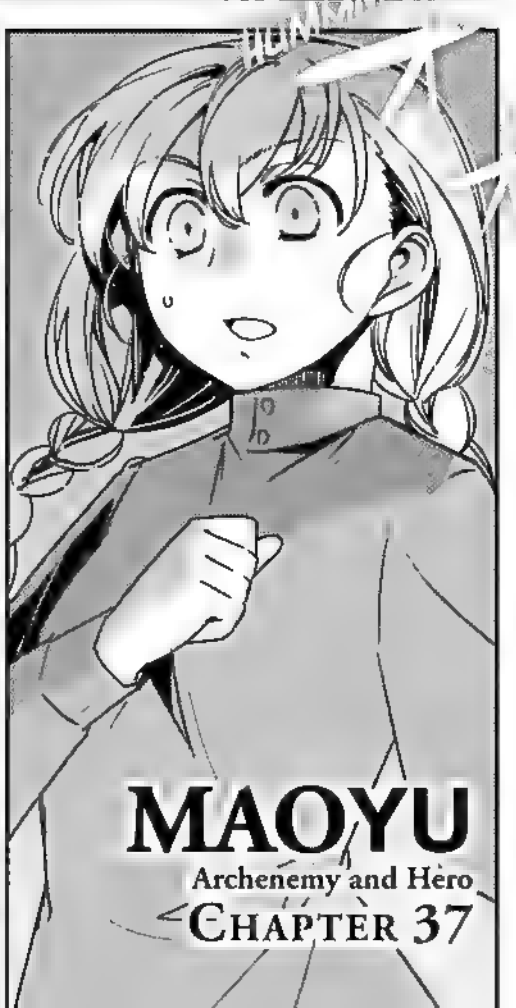
As the power of monarchs grew in the 15th Century, wealthier nations expanded the forces directly under their control by hiring primarily mercenaries. Monarchs of various nations competed to hire the Swiss Guard.

The mountainous nation of Switzerland had hardly any farmland or industry, so they made dispatching mercenaries their livelihood. Additionally, the Swiss Guard is skilled in the use of long spears known as pikes, which are highly effective against mounted knights charging in with lances.

Mercenaries are professional soldiers. They maintain their weapons well as their lives depend on it.

Switzerland's professional soldiers are also skilled in hand-to-hand combat and have been hired as guards for the French royal family and Pope.

In this manner, mercenaries have served as the primary fighting force in wars from the Middle Ages to modern times, but since the French Revolution of the 18th Century, national armies appealing to the patriotism of the country's citizens became the norm, and mercenaries slowly disappeared.



MAOYU

Archenemy and Hero

Chapter 37

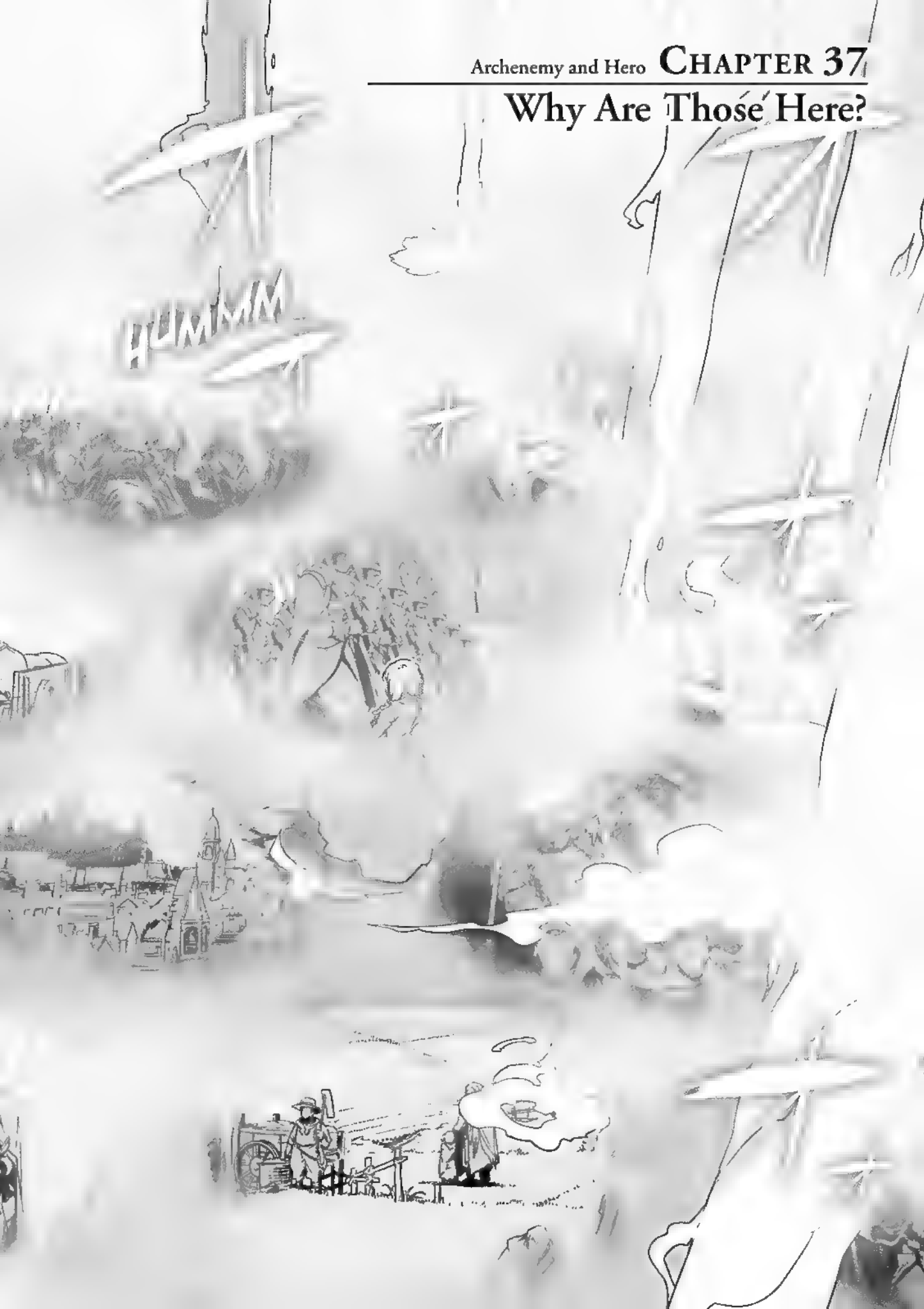
Why Are Those Here?

WHAT IS THIS?

HUMMM

HUMMM

CHAPTER 37
Why Are Those Here?



WHAT IS THIS?
HUMMM

THE HOLY CAPITAL CHURCH OF HOLY LIGHT CHAPEL
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SNEAKING IN.
WE WEREN'T ALLOWED TO ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE. WE HAD NO CHOICE.
YOU'RE BOLDER THAN YOU LOOK.
YOU THINK SO?

THIS GIRL IS PROBABLY SPECIAL.
SHE WALKS WITH PURPOSE.
JUST AS I HAVE CHOSEN MUSIC...
...SHE HAS CHOSEN "SOMETHING" TOO.
I'VE COME THIS FAR.
I'LL HELP YOU WITH YOUR GOAL.
THANK YOU.
I CAN RESEARCH THE "HOLY RELIC" LATER
THE STORY WE FOUND THE OTHER DAY...
ABOUT THE FIVE SPIRIT FAMILIES?

THIS PLACE WILL PROBABLY HAVE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.
TO REDEEM HIMSELF AND HIS FORBIDDEN LOVE, THE BLACK SHEEP BOY...
...AND HIS COUSIN, THE KING OF THE SPIRITS OF THE LAND, ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY ONE ANOTHER.
THE SPIRITS FOUGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES. THE UNITY OF THE FIVE FAMILIES WAS FOREVER LOST, AND THEY NEVER ACHIEVED HARMONY AGAIN.
FIERCE FLAMES OF CONFLICT BLAZED BETWEEN THEM AS THEY FOUGHT, AND THEY SANK INTO THE DARKNESS OF DESTRUCTION.
THE BLACK ORB OF THE EARTH SHATTERED.
THE POWER OF THE ORB TORE THE LAND APART.

THE ANSWER THE GIRL CHOSE WAS THE WORLD.
SHE RELEASED THE FINGERTIPS OF THE BOY SHE LOVED...
...AND WISHED TO BECOME THE PRO-TECTOR OF ALL LIVES.
THE GIRL WHO WISHED TO SAVE THE WORLD...
...WAS A WISE GIRL BORN FROM FIRE.
I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE LIVING.
I AM THE LORD OF GRACE.
SHE GATHERED ALL THE REMAINING ORBS AND HER BODY TURNED TO LIGHT.

WHAT A SAD STORY.
THEY WERE FORBIDDEN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER...
...BUT BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO STAY TOGETHER...
...THE WORLD FELL APART.
THE FIVE SPIRIT FAMI-LIES.
THE TORN EARTH.
THE FIRE SPIRIT GIRL BECAME LIGHT...
LIGHT...
THE SPIRIT OF LIGHT?
HEY.
FLIP
WHAT IS THAT?
IT WAS INSIDE THE SAME TUBE.
IT'S SOME KIND OF DOCU-MENT.

HISSS
IT'S A CON-TRACT...
...BETWEEN THE FOURTH ARCHBISHOP OF "AMBER FLAME." AND...
WHAT IS IT?
IS IT A CON-TRACT?
NO.
IT'S SAND ...?
HISSS
HUH?
WHAT?
WATER ?
HISSS
FWOOSH
YOUR HAND!
WHOA!
HISSS
HISSS

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I CAN SEE THE SURFACE.
THERE'S A WAR...
THE FEMALE KNIGHT?

WHOOSH
CHATTER
CHATTER

THE MISTS ARE GATHERING.
YES, MA'AM.
THE BLUE DEMONS ARE APPROACHING!
ALL UNITS, PREPARE TO FIRE!
KA-KLICK
DON'T SHOOT YET!
WAIT!
CLICK
MARCH
MARCH
THEY HAVE FEWER TOWER SHIELDS THAN WE EXPECTED.
OUR ARROWS SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST THEM.
....
COULD IT BE?

!
FIRE!
GRIND
....
GEN-ERAL ?
THEY'RE WITHIN RANGE!

WHUD
WHUD
WHUD

あ
あ
YAAARGH
あ

ヒュ FWISH
ヒュ FWISH
ヒュ FWISH

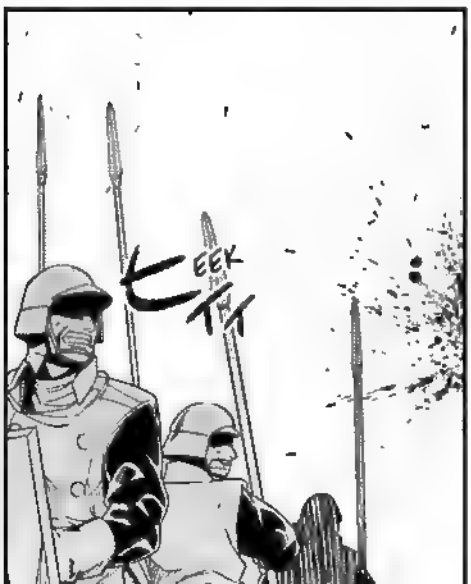
WE CAN'T MOVE!
IT'S PRACTICALLY A WALL OF ARROWS!
WHUD
WHUD
FWISH
WHUD
AD-VANCE!
WHAT'S WRONG?
AD-VANCE!
THUD
AAAARGH
AAAH

THEN YOU WILL DIE.

WE'RE HUMANS!
WE CAN'T DRAW OUR SWORDS AGAINST OTHER HUMANS!

YOU'RE SOLDIERS OF THE LOSING FORCE!
YOU'RE OUR SLAVES!

NOW AD-VANCE!
WE WILL SHOOT ANY COWARDS...
...WHO ATTEMPT TO FLEE!
MARCH
MARCH


EEK

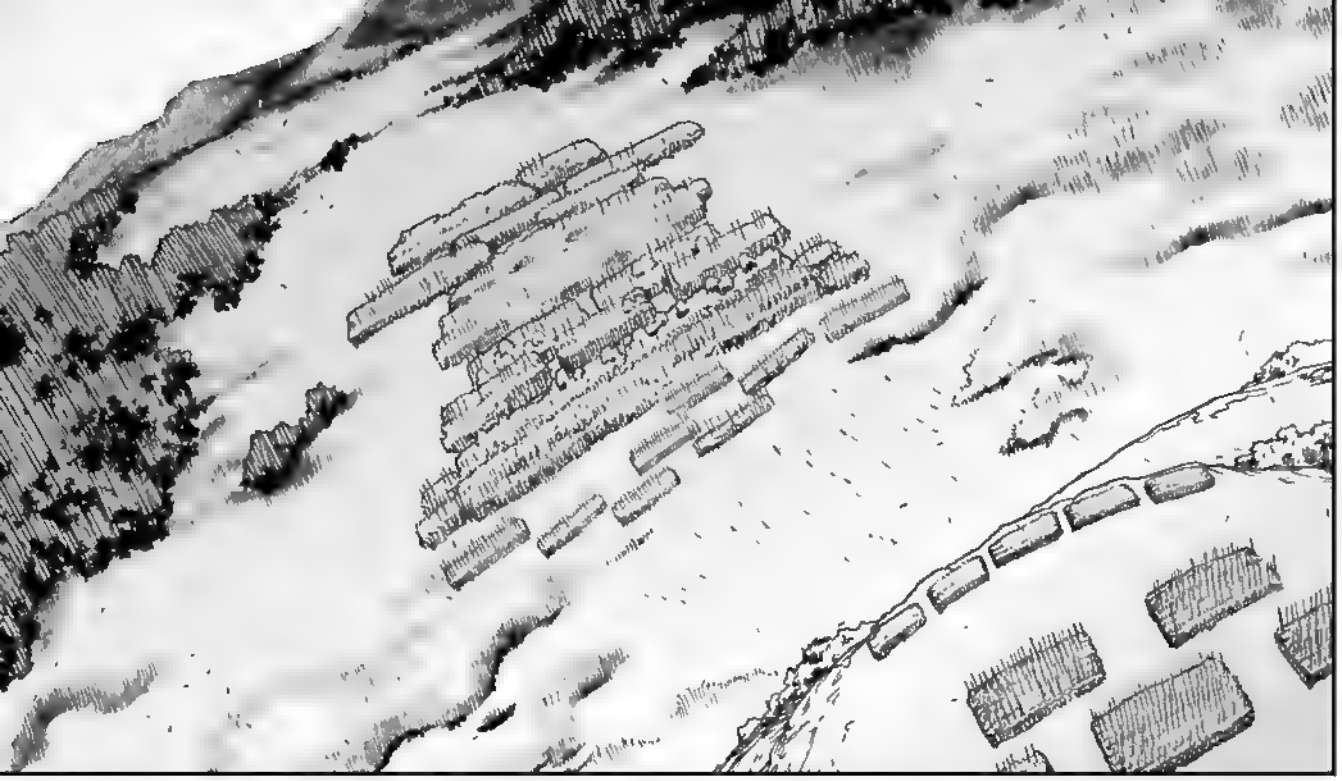
BUT...
BUT MA'AM ...
THEY'RE SOLDIERS OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN!
DON'T FLINCH!
FIRE!
WHIMPER
UGH
UNBELIEV-ABLE..

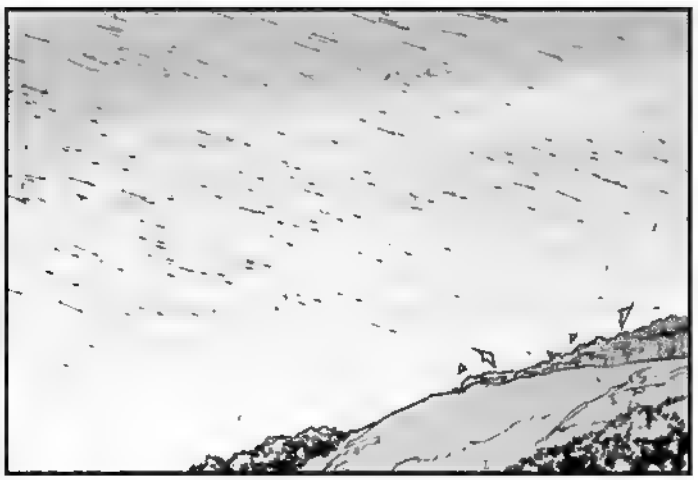
DON'T THINK!
YOU MUST EN-DURE!
THEY'RE ARMED SOLDIERS COMING TO ATTACK US!

DON'T HESITATE!
I WILL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY!

YEAH!
YEAH!
YEAH

THERE ARE 200.000 PIONEERS BEHIND US!
IF WE RETREAT ONE STEP, WE WILL FALL!





I THOUGHT THEY WOULD FALL IMMEDI-ATELY.
THEY'RE QUITE TOUGH.

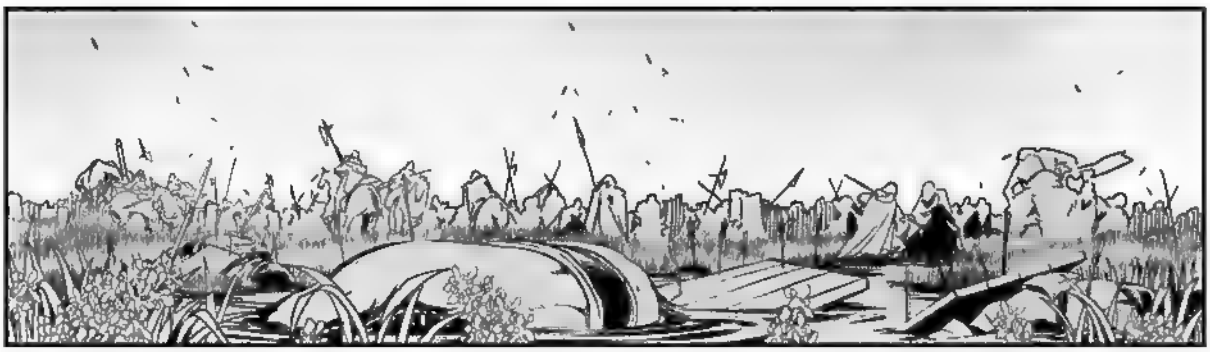
NOW!
HEAD TO THE FRONT LINE!
SHOW THEM THE STRENGTH OF THE BLUE DEMONS!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THE SLAVES CAN'T BREAK THROUGH.

CON-FUSE THEM!
STRIKE AT THE FLANKS OF THEIR HEAVY INFANTRY!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
CAVALRY, CHARGE!

RUMBLE
わあああYAAAHあああ

THE CENTER OF THEIR ARMY IS THAT FEMALE COM-MANDER.
WELL ?
OUR ARMY IS PUSHING THEM BACK...
...BUT THEY'RE TOUGHER THAN WE EXPECTED.
SHE'S BEAUTI-FUL LIKE A HONED BLADE.
SHE'S A LITTLE UNDER-DEVELOPED FOR THE YOUNG KING'S TASTES...
...BUT LIMPID YOUNG MAIDENS HAVE THEIR OWN BEAUTY.
SEND IN 5,000 OF THE RESERVES!
RUMBLE
CAPTURE THE ENEMY'S FEMALE COMMAND-ER ALIVE!
THE ONE WHO CAPTURES HER WILL BE PROMOTED TWO RANKS!
ROAR

A GROUP OF ENEMIES ARE CHARGING!
THEY'RE HEADING THIS WAY!
THEY'VE TAKEN THE BAIT!
EVADE THEIR ATTACKS AS WE RETREAT!
RUMBLE
GALLOP

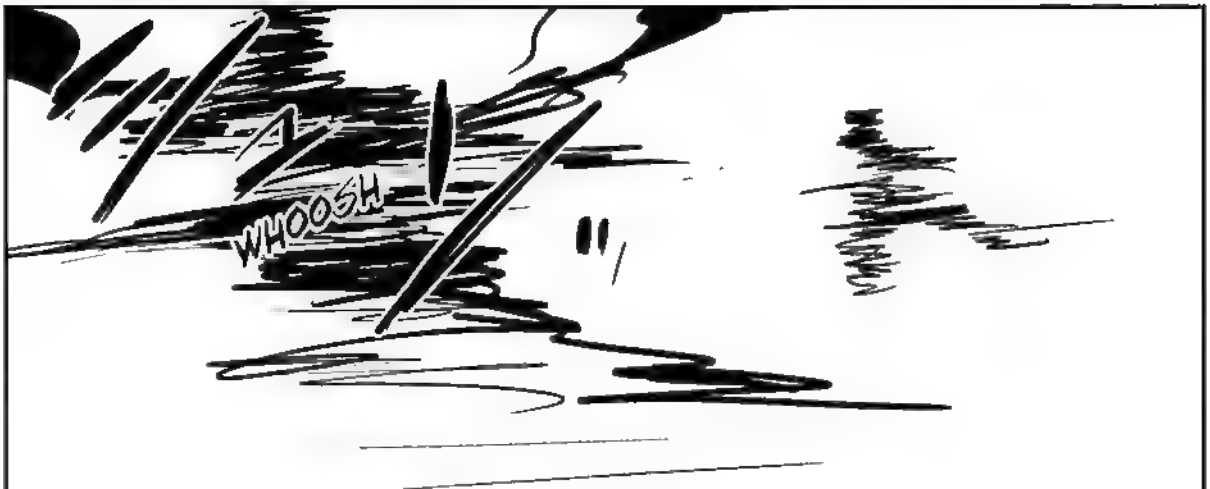


BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

HEH HEH.
I CAN FEEL IT.
THE FLOWING BLOOD.
THE CRIES OF AGONY.
THE HATRED AND GRIEF.
THEY FLOW TO ME AND GRANT ME STRENGTH.
YOU MUST FEEL IT AS WELL.
HERO.
SHOULDN'T YOU SAVE YOUR MISERABLE PEOPLE?

I'VE LEFT A TRUSTED ALLY TO HANDLE IT.
I CAN EASILY HANDLE A SINGLE DEMON WHO FAILED TO BECOME KING.
HA ...

FWOOSH


WHOOSH

BOOM

BOOM

CRASH

CRASH

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

ズズ...

THUD

ゴゴゴ...

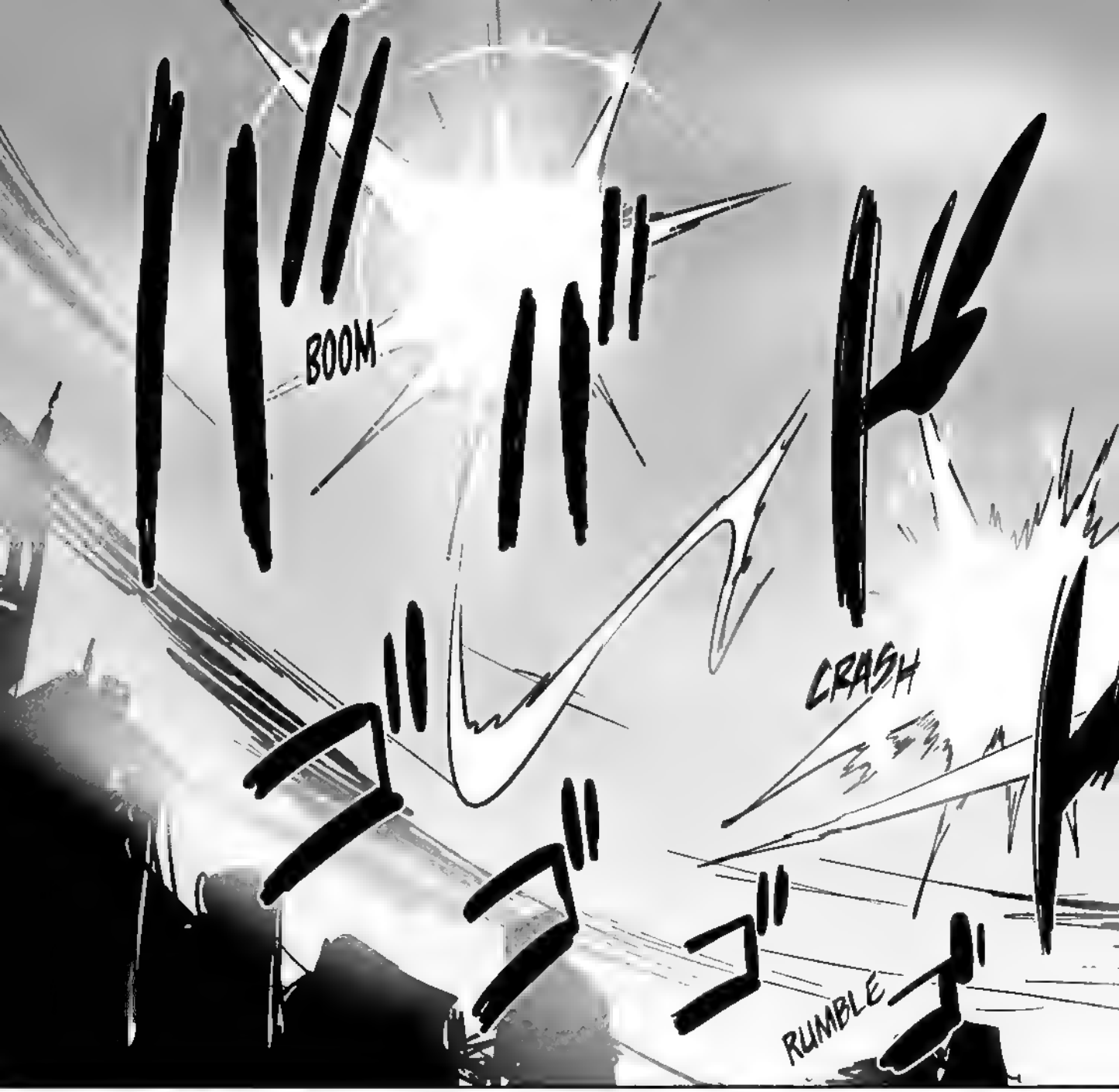
RUMBLE

VWOOM

VWOOM

VWOOM

CRASH
RUMBLE
WOOM
WOOM

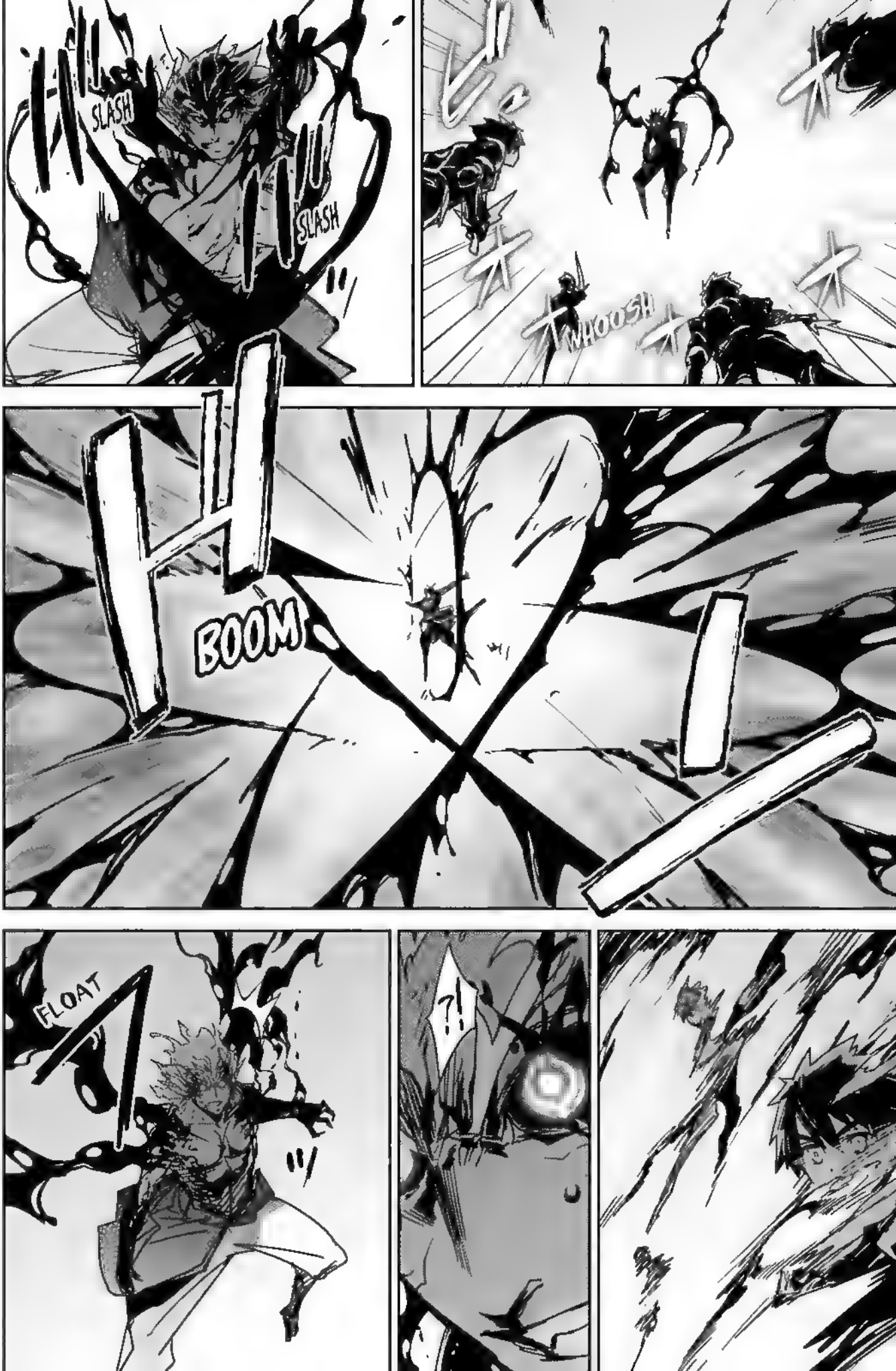

BOOM
CRASH
RUMBLE

THUD
ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE

VWOOM

WHOOSH
HUMMM
FWOOM

GLOW
FWOOM
HUMMM
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

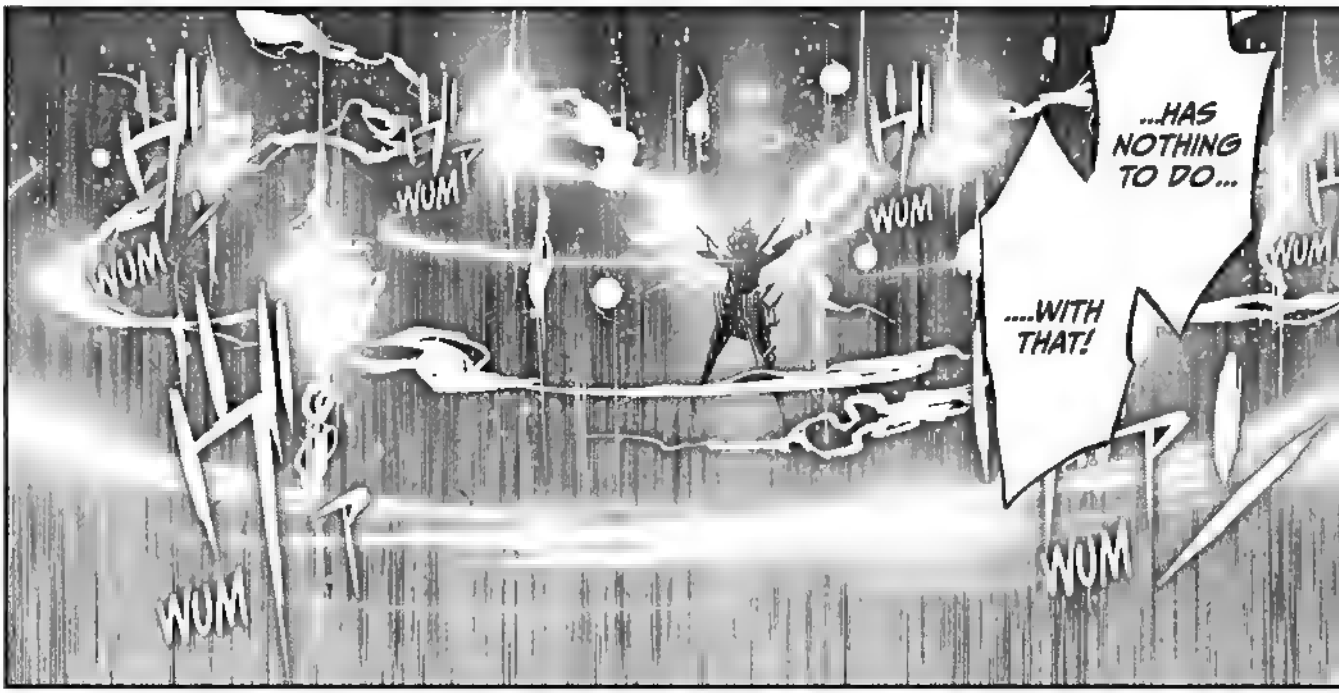

SLASH
SLASH
WHOOSH
BOOM
FLOAT
?!

WHOOSH
SLASH
TSH!

MY SEALS TELL ME YOU ARE MY ARCHENEMY!
I WOULDN'T EXPECT LESS FROM YOU, HERO!
HA HA HA!
HA!

HOW-EVER...
...THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE...

I ACKNOWL-EDGE THE SUPERIORITY OF YOUR COMBAT STRENGTH.


WUM
WUM
WUM
WUM
WUM
...HAS NOTHING TO DO...
....WITH THAT!

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
RUMBLE
CRACKLE

FIGHTING WHILE PROTECTING PEOPLE AND CITIES IS FOOLISH.
I KNEW IT.
IT WAS THE SAME AT THE KURULTAI.

YOU INTENTIONALLY...
...STRUCK THE CITY!

YOUR BODY AND MIND ARE FULL OF WEAK-NESSES!
YOU CANNOT WATCH AS THE CITY IS DESTROYED!
YOU MAY BE STRON-GER THAN ME...
...BUT AS THE ATTACKER ...
...I HAVE THE ADVAN-TAGE!

DEFENDING BEFORE AN ATTACK IS POINTLESS!
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S ALWAYS TOO LATE!

THIS IS THE FATE OF THE HERO!
THE TRUTH BE-HIND SALVA-TION!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT...
... HERO ?

YOU CANNOT PREVENT DISASTER!
NO!
IT IS THE DISASTERS THAT BRING THEM INTO BEING!

YOU'RE MINE!
HUMMM
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHAT ?!
VWOOM
BLACK ARMOR!
REPEL THE ATTACKS OF MY ENEMY!

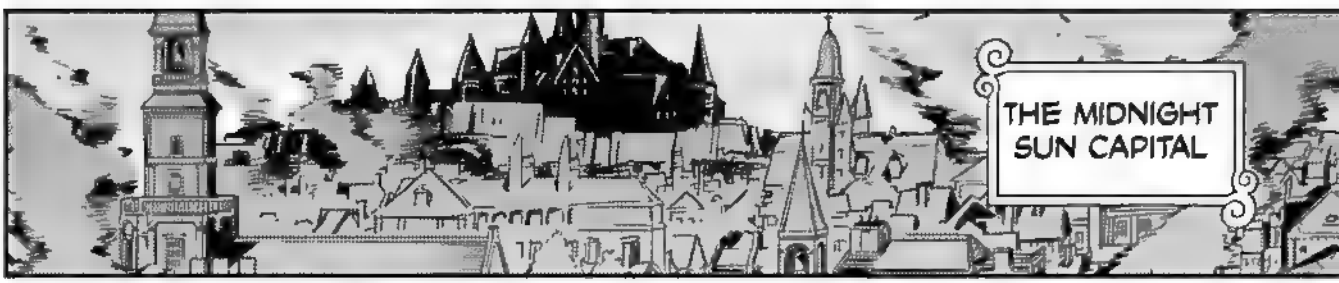
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
THAT ARMOR BELONGS TO THE DEMON KING!
HOW CAN YOU USE IT?
IT'S ALWAYS TOO LATE TO SAVE SOMEONE?
THAT'S FATE?
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY WON!
ROAR

WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHOOSH

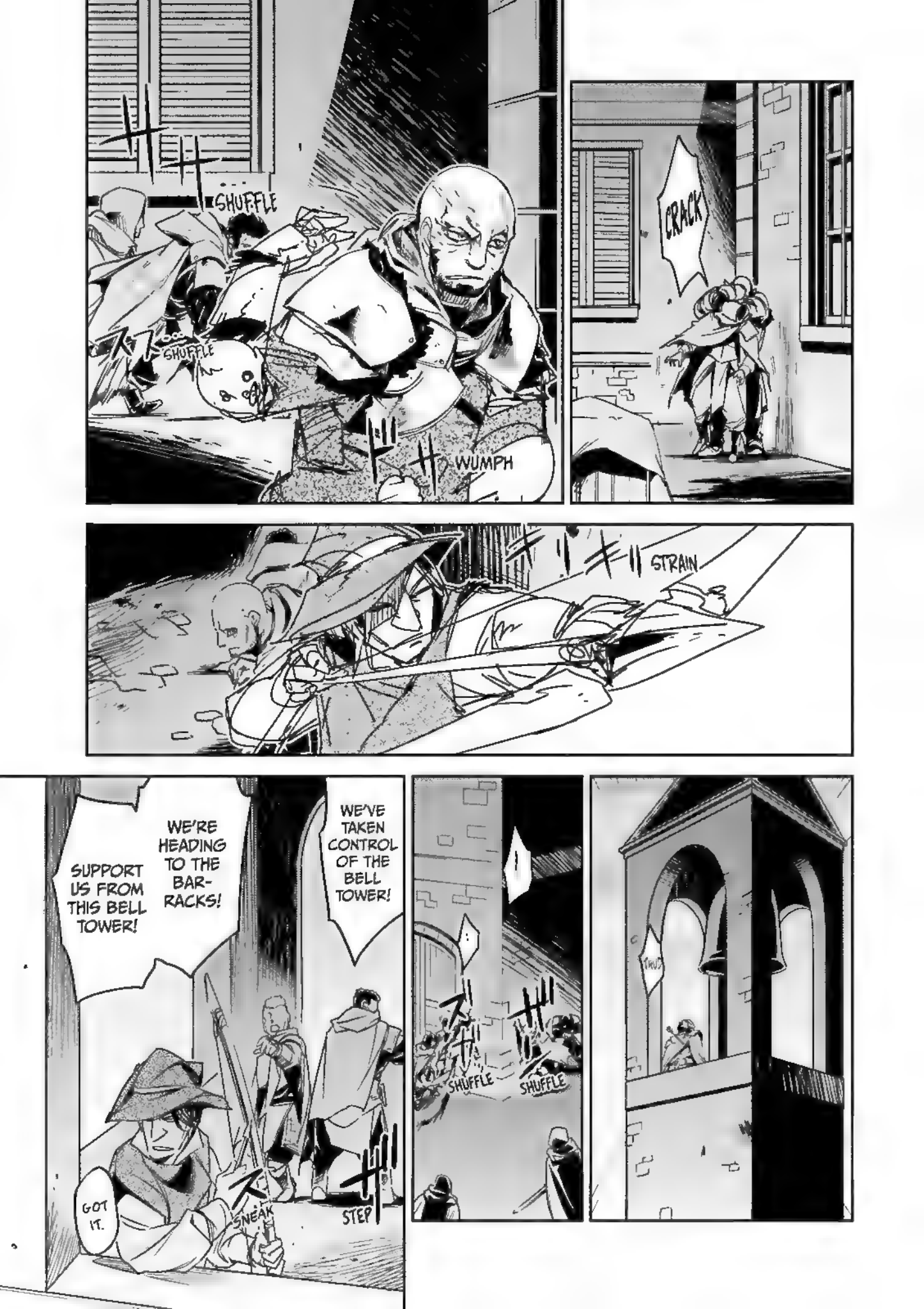
ROAR
THIS STORM WILL BLOW BOTH OF US AWAY.
LET'S GO SOME-WHERE BETTER FOR A FIGHT.

IT'S A STRENGTH-ENED VERSION OF THE MERRY MAGICIAN'S WEATHER CONTROL SPELL.
RUMBLE

ROAR-
DAMN YOU...
... HERO!
WHOOSH


THE MIDNIGHT SUN CAPITAL

WHOOSH
?!
YEAH.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
TSK.
I WANTED TO DISTINGUISH MYSELF ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

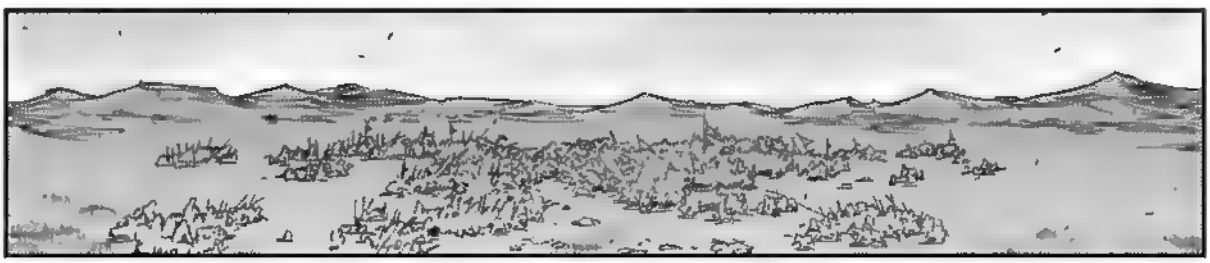

SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
WUMPH
CRACK
STRAIN
WE'RE HEADING TO THE BAR-RACKS!
WE'VE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE BELL TOWER!
SUPPORT US FROM THIS BELL TOWER!
GOT IT.
SNEAK
STEP
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
THUD

HELP ALL OF THEM ESCAPE!
THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE SLOWLY!
CHEER
STOP THEM IF THEY TRY TO TAKE ANY POSSESSIONS OR BAGS WITH THEM!
TELL THEM TO TAKE ONLY FOOD AND CLOTHES WITH THEM AS THEY FLEE!
RELEASE ANY IMPRISONED REFUGEES AND CITIZENS YOU FIND IMMEDIATELY!
ROAR
BANG
SLASH

HEH HEH
WE'RE CHAMPI-ONS OF JUSTICE.
IDIOT.
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOUR-SELF.
WHACK
WHO...
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'LL FIND A PRETENTIOUS MAN AND GOOD FOOD WAITING FOR YOU!
おお OOH
あぁ AAH
WE'VE BEEN HIRED TO RESCUE YOU!
LEAVE YOUR BELONGINGS AND HEAD FOR THE WOODS TO THE NORTH-WEST!
OH. THANKS.
CAP-TAIN. I HAVE WATER FOR YOU.
POKE
POKE

SHUT UP! YOU'D BETTER HURRY!
DASH
THANKS.
OKAY ?
BOSS?
?
HEH HEH
THIS ISN'T SO BAD.
YES ...
YES, SIR!
LET'S TAKE CONTROL AND EVACUATE THE PEOPLE QUICKLY.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

MY NOSE STILL ITCHES.
SOMETHING BAD ALWAYS HAPPENS DURING THESE MOMENTS.



SPEAR-MEN ON THE RIGHT FLANK, ADVANCE 50 STEPS!
MAINTAIN YOUR FORMA-TION!
ARCHERS SUPPORT THEM FROM THE FAR RIGHT!
COORDI-NATE YOUR ATTACKS WITHOUT GIVING THEM ANY OPENINGS!

WELL DONE!
THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS, 15 COMPANIES SUCCESSFULLY RETREATED.

GALLOP
THE LEFT FLANK'S CAVALRY HAVE RETURNED!

はははHA HA HA
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU, GENERAL!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WISH I COULD OFFER YOU TIME TO REST, BUT...

WE AWAIT YOUR NEXT ORDERS!
CHEER
おお!
WE'VE RETURNED THROUGH ENEMY LINES, BUT WE'RE STILL IN HIGH SPIRITS!

ORGA-
NIZE THE
SPEARMEN
AND LEAVE
THE FRONT
LINE!
STRIKE
FROM JUST TO
THE LEFT OF
THE CENTER
OF THE
FORMATION...
...AND
DISRUPT
THEIR
REAR-
GUARD!
I AM
PROUD
OF YOU!
RUMBLE
LET'S
SCARE THE
HELL OUT OF
THOSE BLUE
DEMONS!
ROAR
YOU
HEARD
THE LADY
GEN-
ERAL'S
ORDERS!
MEN!

HMPH.
THEY REFUSE TO FALL.
OUR ENEMIES ARE PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT.
BUT MOST OF OUR CASUALTIES ARE SLAVES.
THE EXTENT OF THEIR WILL-POWER IS IMPRES-SIVE.
INFANTRY-MEN!
YES, SIR!
TAKE OVER FOR THE COMMAND GROUP AND LIGHT A FIRE UNDER THE SLAVES!
PUSH THE FRONT LINE FROM BEHIND!
USE THE SLAVES AS SHIELDS TO ESTABLISH A FOOTHOLD ON THE CENTRAL HILLS!
ROAR

MARCH
THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST OUR MAIN FORCE.
HMPH.
THE HUMANS' USELESS RESISTANCE ENDS NOW.
GO!
TRAM-PLE THEM!
MARCH
MARCH

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
GEN-
ERAL!
THE LEFT CAVALRY COMPANY IS SUR-ROUNDED!
I'LL GO!
HANDLE THINGS HERE!
GALLOP
YES, MA'AM!

WE NEED TO BUY MORE TIME.
NOT YET.
JUST A LITTLE MORE.
HASTER
DEMON QUEEN!
YOUR ORDERS!
YES.
WE MADE IT IN TIME.
THE DETEST-ABLE BLUE DEMONS TARNISHED THE REPUTA-TION OF MY CLAN.

ROAR
WITH YOUR FEROCIOUS FANGS AND CLAWS...
...TEAR OPEN THE BOWELS OF THE BLUE DEMONS!
CHAMPIONS OF THE FANGED DEMONS!
ROAR
ROAR

ROAR
RUMBLE

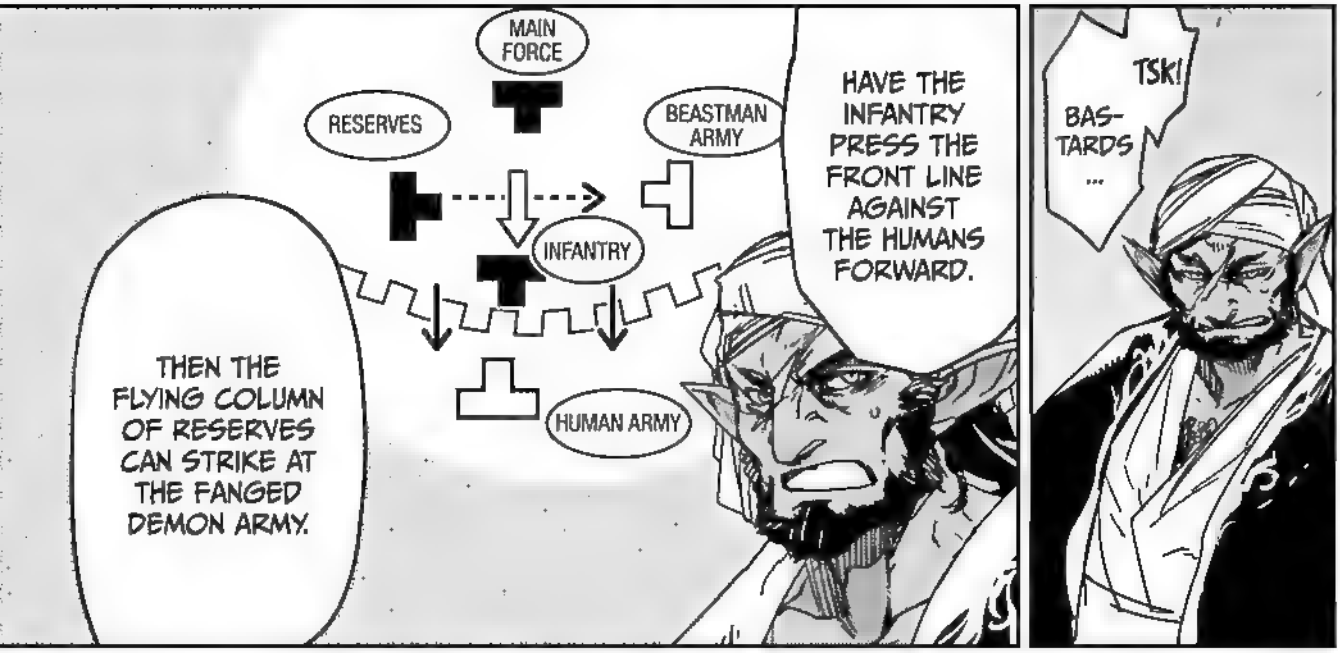
ENEMIES ARE ATTACK-ING!
THEY'RE ATTACK-ING!
WHAT ...
HOW?
ROAR
BOOM
BEAST-MEN?
GREAT NUMBERS OF BEAST-MEN!
ENEMIES ARE ATTACK-ING!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?

JUMP
CHATTER
WHAT ARE THE BEASTMEN DOING HERE?
DAMN IT...
MY FEET ARE CAUGHT IN THE MARSH!
CHATTER
SPLURCH
YAAARGH
PUNISH THE TRAITOROUS BLUE DEMONS!
AAAH
RUMBLE
THE FANGED DEMONS ARE UN-PERTURBED BY POOR FOOTING!

STOP, YOU FOOLS!
DON'T EXPOSE YOUR FLANK TO THE HUMANS IN FRONT OF YOU!
RE-VERSE!
TURN THE HEAVY INFANTRY COMPANY AROUND!
RUMBLE
AAAH
RUMBLE
SPLASH
CIRCLE AROUND AND ATTACK THE BEASTMAN ARMY!
LIGHT AND HEAVY INFANTRY!
BLUE DEMON CAVALRY
FANGED DEMON SOLDIERS
BLUE DEMON INFANTRY
SECURE SPACE FOR THE INFAN-TRY TO FAN OUT!
SLAVE SOLDIERS
THREE KINGDOM SOLDIERS
RUMBLE

ROAR
RUMBLE
ROAR
WHIZZ

ROAR
THE FANGED DEMONS CANNOT LOSE TO COWARDS!
THIS IS THE PRIDE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF DEMONS!


MAIN FORCE
RESERVES
BEASTMAN ARMY
INFANTRY
HUMAN ARMY
THEN THE FLYING COLUMN OF RESERVES CAN STRIKE AT THE FANGED DEMON ARMY.
HAVE THE INFANTRY PRESS THE FRONT LINE AGAINST THE HUMANS FORWARD.
TSK!
BASTARDS ...

ROAR
RUMBLE
YES! SIR!
CARRY OUT THE COMMAND EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!
GO!
STEP

?!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY!
ざわ
MURMUR
THE PRESSURE IS INCREASING?
WE SHOULD RETREAT AND MAKE PREPARATIONS...
MEN!
HEROES OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS!
I WILL GO WITH YOU!
THEIR MOVEMENTS REVEAL THEIR IMPATIENCE.
OUR ENEMIES ARE BEING FORCED TO PUSH FORWARD.
IF WE FALL BACK, WE WILL GIVE THEM THE ADVANTAGE.

HEAR ME!
HEROES OF THE FROZEN SOUTH!
CARVE INTO YOUR SOULS THE SIGNIFI-CANCE...
...OF THIS BATTLE!
STAND YOUR GROUND TO PROTECT YOUR HOMES!
YOU AND YOUR FORE-FATHERS CLEARED THIS LAND!
YOU PLANTED SEED-LINGS WITH CRACKED HANDS!
YOU MOVED BOULDERS LARGER THAN YOUR-SELVES!
YOU THRUST YOUR HOES INTO THE FROZEN GROUND...
...AND WAITED IN THE SNOW FOR SPRING TO COME!
YOUR FLESH, BLOOD, AND SOULS HAVE TAKEN ROOT IN THIS LAND.

DO NOT FORGIVE THOSE WHO INVADE AND LAY WASTE TO OUR LAND!
おおおお
CHEER
WE FIGHT THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE INVADERS!
WE DO NOT FIGHT THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE DEMONS!
LOOK AT THE ENEMIES BEFORE YOU!
ROAR
IT'S JUST...
WHAT WAS THE FEMALE KNIGHT TRYING TO DO?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T LIKE THIS.

THAT GIRL'S AN IMPRESSIVE TACTICIAN.
SHE MUST'VE KNOWN IT WOULD BE A SLOW DEFEAT.
....
ISN'T SHE TRYING TO DEFEND THE CENTRAL HILLS?
?
I HOPE THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
....
WAS SHE COUNTING ON OUR REINFORCE-MENTS?
THIS IS A BATTLE-FIELD. IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IF YOU KEEP THINKING LIKE THAT...
...YOU'LL GET MUD ALL OVER YOURSELF.
MUD...

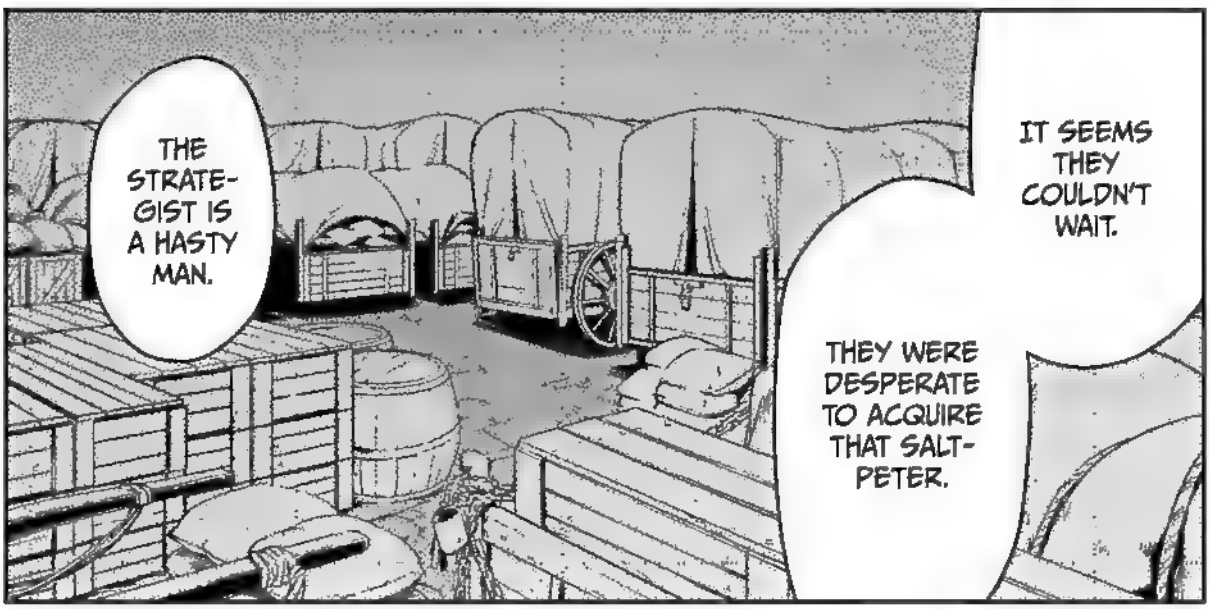
FALL BACK!
SEND A MESSAGE TO DUKE SILVER TIGER IMMEDI-ATELY!
CHANGE COURSE AND HEAD WEST...
...AT FULL SPEED!
BE QUIET.
GULP
RUSTLE
WE MUST FOCUS ON PRO-TECTING THE ENGI-NEERS...
...VITAL TO THE FEMALE KNIGHT'S STRATEGY.
I'M SURE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE FRONT LINES...
...BUT OUR DUTY IS HERE.

BOOM
AN UNIDENTIFIED COMPANY IS APPROACHING FROM BEHIND.
THEY'RE HUMAN.
RUSTLE
WHO COULD BE COMING NOW?
?
BOOM
I SMELL SOMETHING BURNING.
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
BOOM
WHAT?
BOOM
GENERAL!
THE BEASTMEN ARE RETREATING!
WHAT?
WHY?
THEY WERE DOMINATING THE BATTLE.
BUT THIS IS GOOD FOR US.

I HAVE A REPORT!
AN ENEMY COMPANY HAS APPEARED BEHIND US!
WHAT?

MARCH
ALL UNITS, ADVANCE!
WE'LL ROUND UP THE HUMAN FORCES IN FRONT OF US BEFORE NIGHTFALL!

THE HOLY KINGDOM?
HAH.
THEY'RE REINFORCEMENTS.
THE HOLY KINGDOM'S ARMY HAS APPEARED BEHIND US!
THERE ARE AT LEAST 30,000 OF THEM!


THE STRATEGIST IS A HASTY MAN.
IT SEEMS THEY COULDN'T WAIT.
THEY WERE DESPERATE TO ACQUIRE THAT SALTPETER.

BOOM
?!
WHAT IS THIS SOUND?
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
...YOU SAY?
WHAT...
WHAT DID...
BOOM
BOOM
THE HOLY KINGDOM IS ATTACKING OUR ARMY WITH AN UNKNOWN WEAPON!
OUR REARGUARD HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED!
GENERAL!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WHY...
WHY?
WHY ARE THOSE HERE?
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
DEMON QUEEN.
HANG IN THERE.
PANT!
PANT!

BOOM
THEY ARE...
...FAR MORE TERRIFYING THAN THE BLUE DEMONS.
WHEN AND FROM WHERE...
...DID THEY GET SO MANY?
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
BOOM
BOOM

THAT'S ...
...A HUMAN COM-PANY!
WHOOSH
!
RUN!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'RE FROM, BUT...
WAIT!
HA HA HA HA HA
YOU'RE TOO SLOW!
I'LL TURN THIS BATTLE AROUND !
WHOOSH

HUMM
WHAT ...
WHAT IS THIS?
HUMMM
?!
WHAT?

IS IT A GROUP CURSE?
THERE MUST BE FAR MORE THAN 10 OF THEM TO CAST A SPELL THIS STRONG.
MY BODY ...
...IS CAUGHT ...
...IN A SPELL.

WHY ARE THEY CASTING SUCH A MASSIVE RITUAL HERE?
BOOM
!
STOP ...
THIS SPELL...
...CANNOT HOLD ME ONCE I INCINER-ATE THE CASTERS.

COUGH
AN IRON...
...BALL?
WHAT ...
...IS ...
...THIS?
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
POW
POW
POW
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

HURGH
BOOM

THE END

CHAPTER 37
Why Are Those Here?

THE EVOLUTION OF FIREARMS

The firearms invented in China passed to the west through the Mongolian Empire. They were improved over countless wars and evolved into increasingly practical weapons.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUNS THROUGH THE PURSUIT OF INCREASED SPEED AND ACCURACY

The prototype of the gun is believed to be a weapon known as the hand cannon invented in China during the beginning of the 9th Century. The hand cannon was a hollow tube with a hole on the side mounted on a wooden board. After placing gunpowder and round polished stones inside the tube, a burning stick was inserted into the hole to ignite the gunpowder, and the stone was fired from the weapon.

Bullets strengthened by magic can even pierce the demon king's armor.

The original hand cannon was later replaced by a weapon known as a fire lance, and the first guns utilizing bronze tubes were born. These weapons were spread to the west when the Mongolian Empire swept across the Eurasian continent. In the 12th to 13th Centuries, a weapon known as the madofa was produced in the Arab world. Though a similar weapon was used in Europe, they were too large and inconvenient to be called guns, and they did not make very practical weapons.

In the beginning of the 15th Century, the musket finally appeared. The first muskets were known as matchlock muskets. A piece of metal holding the fuse was manipulated using the trigger to ignite the gunpowder and fire a bullet. The invention of this mechanism allowed the shooter to aim while firing, finally making the gun a practical weapon.

However, the fuse necessary to ignite the gunpowder was susceptible to poor weather and moisture. Because of this, flintlock guns using sparks created by flint were born in the 17th Century. Loading guns was also made easier with the invention of cartridges of bullets and gunpowder wrapped in paper.

Beginning in the 19th Century, the evolution of guns accelerated. The invention of mercury fulminate (a chemical that explodes with little force) led to the birth of blasting caps, and in addition to increasing the reliability of guns, the addition of rifling to the inside of the barrel increased their accuracy. Additionally, breech-loading weapons in which cartridges were loaded in the rear of the barrel were born, making it possible for soldiers to fight while lying down.

The massive force of musketmen were even able to obliterate the powerful Blue Demons.

As guns continued to evolve, they replaced other weapons as the primary weapon of armies. However, the advent of machine guns, development of trench tactics, and invention of tanks encouraged the birth of new tactics and weapons, making modern wars far more lethal than those of the past.

From this perspective, the history of the gun's evolution is an example of how advances in technology can lead in a negative direction.

MAOYU : Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
Volume 11

KADOKAWA MANGA

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MAOYU MAOU YUUSHA
"KONO WARENO MONOTONARE, YUUSHAYO" "KOTOWARU!"
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